

Hafa Adai!

'Sans \$3M, PSS will be forced to cut personnel' **PAGE 4**

SHS clinic continues to provide essential animal health services. **PAGE 6**

\$1

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Palacios lifts price freeze

Palacios lifted on Friday the price freeze that was set in place on May 23, 2023, to prevent price gouging.

In rescinding Executive Order 2023-004, Palacios said the conditions necessitating a price freeze have now passed, making it ap-

See **FREEZE** on Page 4

Winners of MVA photo tilt named



Winners of the "Capture the Beauty of The Marianas" Facebook and Instagram contest by the Marianas Visitors Authority have been named, with Mary Haze, Marlena King, and Odessa Camacho submitting the winning photos of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, respectively.

See **WINNERS** on Page 4



The photo of plumerias submitted by Mary Haze wins first place in the Saipan category of the Marianas Visitors Authority's "Capture the Beauty of The Marianas" online photo contest held in May 2023.

MVA



The photo of a sunset submitted by Marlena King wins first place in the Tinian category of the Marianas Visitors Authority's "Capture the Beauty of The Marianas" online photo contest held in May 2023.

MVA

The photo of Mt. Sabana submitted by Odessa Camacho wins first place in the Rota category of the Marianas Visitors Authority's "Capture the Beauty of The Marianas" online photo contest held in May 2023.

MVA

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**

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REPORTER

Saying the CNMI is no longer under an emergency declaration for Typhoon Mawar and that products are readily available, Gov. Arnold I. Pa-

Defense seeks court's help in Kingman contract quarrel



Torres

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**

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REPORTER

After the Department of Finance issued a final ruling declining to address a request to find special prosecutor James

See **DEFENSE** on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN

Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:

103



INCOMING JRM COMMANDER

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios shakes hands with incoming Joint Region Marianas commander Rear Adm. Gregory C. Huffman last Friday during a courtesy call at the Office of the Governor. Outgoing JRM commander Rear Adm. Benjamin R. Nicholson facilitated the formal introduction between the two officials. Palacios expressed his appreciation for the expanded partnership and increased communication between the CNMI and JRM, wished Nicholson the best, and congratulated Huffman on his new position, reiterating the partnership that JRM has provided to the Commonwealth, especially in the aftermath of Typhoon Mawar on Rota. Both stressed the need for continued collaboration.

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Party & Beyond's daily lunch buffet serves a different set of menu items every day.

PAGE 11



NATION

President Joe Biden delivers an economic message during the first rally of his campaign.

PAGE 12



LIFE & STYLE

Al Pacino, 83, is a father for the fourth time. He and Noor Alfallah welcomed a son named Roman.

PAGE 15



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DMS promotes 138 Tottots to high school

Sending their Class of 2023 Tottots to a new chapter in their lives and into high school, Dandan Middle School promoted 138 eighth graders during their promotion ceremony at their location in Dandan last June 5.

Leading their class was valedictorian and Board of Education awardee Ysharei Sanje and salutatorian and Commissioner Awardee Reese Tolentino.

Sanje was also the recipient of six other awards: the English Language Arts Award, the Mathematics Award, the Sci-

ence Award, the Social Studies Award, Chamorro-Carolinian Language Heritage Studies Award and the CTE Award.

The Leadership award was given to Angelina Camacho, and the Most Improved Award was awarded to recipient Kian Gozun. Jeremiah Roberto took the Tottot Award. Billie Inabo Pangelinan was the recipient of the Physical Education Award, and Vinora Rabago was awarded the Leadership Corps Award.

During his brief remarks, Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada encouraged the

students to be flexible, and never stop learning and growing, and keep moving forward.

"Your experiences both good and bad will define you as an individual. Today all of you guys will receive a certificate as a reward for your hard



YSHAREI SANJE
Valedictorian



REESE TOLENTINO
Salutatorian

Requests for 'Buy America' waiver is now open for public comments

The Department of the Interior has reviewed Buy America waiver requests and determined that they appear to meet the legal and policy requirements of Buy America, either in full or in part, as indicated. They are currently open

for a 15 day public comment period. Comments can be sent to DOI_Grants_BuyAmerica_Waiver@ios.doi.gov. Please reference the associated project title in the subject line of the email. Comments received prior to the public comment

closing date will be reviewed and considered by DOI.

More information here and specific information on the Pacific Islands Territories Waiver at <https://doi.gov/grants/BuyAmerica/Waivers-ForComment> (PR)

work, good effort...and your desire to progress. Today you are all recognized all of you are recognized, for you accomplishments," he said. "Some of you guys will become lawyers, some of you guys will become doctors. Whatever you guys choose, do it to the very best of your abilities. ...[If] you want to be a *chiba* [goat] farmer, be the best *chiba* farmer in the Marianas." (*Chrystal Marino*)

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'Sans \$3M, PSS will be forced to cut personnel'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Without \$3 million in their proposed budget for 2024, the Public School System will be forced to make deep cuts in its number of personnel, according to Education Commissioner

Dr. Alfred Ada on Thursday

In response to House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ralph N. Yumul's (Ind-Saipan) question during a hearing for PSS' proposed 2024 budget, Ada said the American Rescue Plan Act fund has already been set and that, in order to make

changes, they will have to communicate with their grant officers.

"Our grant officers are very tight [and] strict [against making] changes," the commissioner said.

Yumul said they did notice that PSS' proposed budget is \$31.5 million and what was actually submit-

ted by the Palacios administration is lower, at \$28 million.

"We're already short so how does PSS plan to make up for the whole? Does it need additional funding or from federal grants or additional funding from ARPA, to be used to backfill the shortage?" Yumul asked.

Ada said their request establishes the operating budget that will fund PSS's required educational services, supplemented significantly by the last year of funding from ARPA and regular funding received from federal grants.

Consistent with prior years, he said, PSS has used its approved funding under the annual Appropriation and Authorization Act to fund its operating budget.

The commissioner said the bud-

get request represents a 9%-increase over the approved fiscal year 2023 revised budget of \$28 million.

He noted that every year PSS is entitled to 25% of general revenue resources under Article 15 Section 1 of the CNMI Constitution and affirmed by the CNMI Supreme Court.

"As the pandemic enters its fourth year, our priority remains with the students," Ada said.

In order to meet its responsibilities, PSS acknowledges that the support of all stakeholders is essential, he said,

"We will continue to coordinate and collaborate with our stakeholders that we provide the necessary curriculum and instructional programs and improve public health measures at our schools and facilities," Ada said.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, fourth from right, discusses the Public School System's proposed \$31.5-million budget for fiscal year 2024 during a hearing last Thursday before the House Ways and Means Committee.

DEFENSE

From Page 1

Kingman's contract with the Office of the Attorney General invalid, the defense team for former governor Ralph DLG Torres has filed a petition with the Superior Court to set aside the agency's decision in the matter.

Torres' defense team filed last week a petition for judicial review of agency decision and named the CNMI Department of Finance and the Office of the Attorney General as respondents.

The petition comes after Finance Secretary Tract B. Norita declined to rule or address the merits of Torres' request for a declaratory ruling that finds Kingman's contract with the OAG invalid.

In addition, the agency ruling dismissed Torres' request finding that the department lacks the authority to issue a declaratory ruling because Kingman's contract had already been signed.

As relief, Torres is asking the Superior Court to vacate the DOF's final agency decision on the grounds that the ruling was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and contrary to law. The defense also wants the court to rule that the special prosecutor's contract fails to comply with procurement regulations and is therefore void.

Alternatively, Torres asks that the court set aside the DOF's final agency ruling and remand the matter back to the agency for a decision on the merits of his request for declaratory relief by an independent and unbiased hearing officer.

On or about April 8, 2022, the OAG criminally charged the former governor with offenses alleging misconduct in office. On or about Feb. 28, 2023, the OAG hired off-island attorney Kingman, who is not licensed in the CNMI, to serve as special prosecutor in this case, pursuant to a sole-source contractual engagement.

DOF is the governmental entity empowered to oversee governmental contracting and has procurement regulations that govern and regulate governmental contracts, the defense noted.

Torres' defense team stated that the CNMI procurement regulations apply to sole source contracts, meaning DOF's procurement regulations apply to the OAG's contract with the special prosecutor.

On or around March 23, 2023, Torres served an Open Government Act request with DOF seeking a copy of communications and other records associated with the contract between the OAG and the special prosecutor.

DOF produced four pages in response to the request, which consisted of a copy of the contract and documents reflecting payment of an initial \$50,000 retainer.

According to the petition, a review of the documents produced by DOF in response to the OAG establishes that the contract fails to comply with CNMI procurement regulations.

The petition also stated that there was no approval by the director of Procurement and Supply of a justification for the sole source procurement as required, and the contract was not prepared by the OAG as required.

"There was no certification that the contract does not constitute a waste or abuse of public funds, the contract was not signed or approved by the director of Procurement and Supply, the contract was not approved by the DOF secretary or her designee who also certifies the availability of funds as required, and the special prosecutor signed the contract prior to all necessary government signatures had been obtained as required by regulations," the petition stated.

"The contract provided for a lump sum advance payment of the initial contract amount of \$50,000 prior to the performance of any services, there was no written justification from the OAG for the lump sum advance payment of the initial contract amount,

and the contract does not contain the Ethics clauses mandated by the regulations," the petition added.

The defense also stated that the contract does not contain a fixed price or maximum amount to which the contractor can charge, as required by procurement laws.

"Instead, the CNMI government contract provides for an initial \$50,000 retainer, which is continuously replenished in \$10,000 increments without any limitation on the number of replenishments or establishing a maximum amount that will be paid under the contract," the petition stated.

Ultimately, Torres' defense team believes that the DOF's rejection and dismissal of his request violates his constitutional rights to due process and equal protection

"DOF not assigning this matter to an independent hearing officer violates Torres' constitutional due process rights and DOF not assigning this matter to an independent hearing officer violates the CNMI's Government Ethics Code, since the request involved and concerned DOF's legal counsel," the petition states.

In closing, the defense stated that the former governor has exhausted the mandated administrative remedies available to it under the DOF Procurement Regulations, so it is only proper that the matter be brought before the Superior Court.

"DOF's final agency ruling is contrary to law, arbitrary, capricious, and/or an abuse of discretion. DOF did not act as an impartial body in that, without any appearance or opposition from the Office of the AG, it advocated a defense on behalf of the OAG; it never notified Torres of its concern regarding the request and offered Torres an opportunity to be heard in connection with its concern prior to ruling; and it did not treat the request as a contested action. DOF rejected and dismissed Torres' request based solely for political reasons," the petition stated.

Sablan sees shortfall in food for *man'amko*, food stamps

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

This early, the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs expects that there is going to be a shortfall in food for the *man'amko* (senior citizens), and in food stamps next fiscal year, according to DCCA Secretary Mary Margaret "Maggie" Sablan on Friday.

Speaking during the House Ways and Means Committee hearing for the proposed DCCA 2024 budget, Sablan disclosed that the numbers of *man'amko* keep going up as many senior citizens are signing up for the Office on Aging program.

She said DCCA is not just about community and cultural matters; it's also a welfare agency so they serve the community from birth to *man'amko*.

The office provides free, government-subsidized food and services to the *man'amko* enrolled at the Office on Aging. Right now, DCCA already expects to see a shortfall in food subsidy.

» **DCCA chief very depressed going to budget hearing and wants to cry**

"And that's going to be a big deal. We're trying to figure out how we're going to do it," Sablan said.



Sablan

She said food stamp is going up because the government let go of a lot of employees who were funded by the American Rescue Plan Act money. The secretary said those employees qualify for food stamps, so DCCA is also going to have a shortfall in food stamps.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

WINNERS

From Page 1

Entries were accepted during May Tourism Month and featured Marianas' attractions, such as historical or cultural sites, beaches, or others. For Saipan, second place was posted by IG@shangminzzuo and third place by IG@grex_diaries. For Tinian, second place was posted by Pritzel Atalagi Carreon and third place by IG@tinianfitastrodad. For Rota, second place was posted by Lani J. Manglona and third place by Jose Manuel. Cash prizes were awarded to all winners.

"What an amazing group of en-

tries for our 'Capture the Beauty of The Marianas' photo contest," said MVA deputy managing director Judy C. Torres, in announcing the winners. "It's clear that we live in some of the most beautiful islands in the world, and there is tremendous pride and appreciation among our community in that fact. We thank all those who help the MVA promote our islands by sharing their photos with the world via this online contest, and we congratulate our winners."

Entries will be shared by the MVA via social media and other platforms to promote the destination. The contest was held during May Tourism Month. (MVA)

FREEZE

From Page 1

propriate to end the freeze.

The governor issued Executive Order 2023-004 last May 23, declaring a price freeze in the CNMI on gasoline, all foods, bottled water, beverages, ice, all clothing, and other items as the CNMI braces for an approaching Typhoon Mawar.

Palacios declared the price freeze pursuant to a declaration of significant emergency and state of major disaster he issued last May 22, per the

Consumer Disaster Price Freeze Act.

In his Executive Order 2023-005 issued last Friday, Palacios said the CNMI is no longer under an emergency declaration and products are readily available, so the threat of shortages and price gouging no longer threatens the community.

Mawar's powerful winds and strong rains last May 24 largely spared the CNMI, but severely damaged Guam's power systems, affecting the power supply to over 52,000 customers. The damage on Rota wasn't bad as the administration and the Rota Mayor's Office had feared.

‘In Memoriam’ ceremony at AMP set this October

The 17th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council, in cooperation with the American Memorial Park on Saipan, will be hosting an “In Memoriam” commemorative ceremony this October, in remembrance of nearly a thousand Chamorros and Carolinian civilians who lost their lives during the fierce Battle of Saipan nearly 80 years ago in 1944.

The 12th Saipan Municipal Council held its first In Memoriam ceremony in October

2014—10 years after the unveiling of the historic Marianas Memorial courtyard in 2004—and this became an annual event, but was postponed in 2018 due to Typhoon Yutu. The ceremony was again postponed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021, and only resumed in October 2022.

The unveiling of the memorial courtyard was first held on June 13, 2004, as organized by then-governor Juan N. Bauta, with many witnessing

the unveiling of the first granite edifice of civilian Chamorro and Carolinian lives lost in the Battle of Saipan.

Together with then-Saipan mayor Juan B. Tudela, they were joined by then-bishop Thomas A. Camacho and Fr. Isaac Ayuyu for the Mass of remembrance, after which the governor attended the ceremony at Marianas Memorial along with then-Youth Congress Speaker Alvin “Champ” Fejeran, who recited the 933

names that are etched on the granite memorial markers.

Members of the veteran community, government officials, families, relatives, and friends joined the commemorative fellowship and remembrance at the memorial park that early Sunday morning nearly 20 years ago.

This year will see the return of the community with municipality council leadership as host of the In Memoriam in early October. *(Saipan Tribune)*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, 17th Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council secretary Carmen C. Pangelinan, council chair Marian DLG Tudela, American Memorial Park superintendent Barbara Alberti, and council vice chair Antonia M. Tudela.

Humanities Council’s call for history proposals deadline extended to July

The Marianas History Conference Steering Committee has extended the deadline to submit papers and session proposals for the Marianas History Conference to July 15.

The Marianas History Conference is scheduled for Sept. 1 - 3, 2023 on Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Submissions can be made at the following link: bit.ly/mhccproposals.



mhccproposals.

This year's theme is "Healing the Wounds of History." As the world continues to heal from the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded of the value of healing in the Mariana Islands archipelago and the lessons from history that continue to guide us during this pivotal time.

Aiming to further contribute to and engage in a constructive process of understanding and healing, the 6th Marianas History Conference will center presentations and discussion around the theme of Healing the Wounds of History. Historic research, analysis, and interpretations will be presented in an all-inclusive conference and

serve as a collective effort toward the integration of shared histories and memories across the archipelago.

While all historical topics related to the Marianas are welcome, attention will be paid to Marianas’ healing practices; health care issues; the prevalence of diseases that have plagued our islands; sources of environmental contamination; and all sources of historical division in need of remedy, including the separation of Guåhan from the rest of the Marianas. *(PR)*

3 NMI students named to UAF honors lists

FAIRBANKS, AK—The University of Alaska Fairbanks has announced the students named to the deans' and chancellor's lists for the spring 2023 semester, including three students from the CNMI. The lists recognize students' outstanding academic achievements.

Both Francine Rago and Carla Dael Sablan of Saipan were named to the Chancellor's List, while Caitlin Denise Rita King, also of Saipan, was named to the Dean's List.

Students receiving a 3.9 grade point average or higher

are placed on the chancellor's list, while those receiving a grade point average of between 3.5 and 3.89 are named to the deans' list.

UAF is a Land, Sea and

Space Grant institution and is the leading doctoral degree-granting institution in the state of Alaska. Since it was founded in 1917, UAF has been internationally recognized for research

relating to the Arctic and sub-Arctic in areas such as biology, geophysics, engineering, natural resources and global climate change.

Visit the UAF news website for the full spring 2023 honors lists. *(PR)*

Name: DANIEL REGINALD & CHRISTIANA LYNN REGINALD
Address: SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 235-5384
Pro Se


IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the :
Matter of :
the Petition for the :
Appointment of General :
Guardianship for: FCD-GU
M.K.I. : CIVIL ACTION
Minor Child : NO. 23-0181
By: : **NOTICE OF HEARING**
DANIEL REGINALD :
CHRISTIANA LYNN :
REGINALD :
Petitioners :

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.


Dated this 17th day of May, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court



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OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-23-023

Supply and Delivery of Permanent Meter Test Bench
And Portable Meter Test Bench

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of one (1) permanent meter test bench and one (1) portable meter test bench for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to assist water operation staff with CUC's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Management Strategy (SWIMS) program.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 15, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-23-023, Supply and Delivery of Permanent Meter Test Bench and Portable Meter Test Bench” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 28, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.


This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 16, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address, manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and to Marcela Tenorio, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: 670.234.3878

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence's (NMCADSV) mission is to promote, nourish, and sustain a collective movement against violence. All applicants must be familiar with and agree with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic violence, sexual assault, and violence of all forms.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title:
Salary Range:
Classification:

Program Coordinator
\$14.00/hr. ~ \$18.25/hr.
Full Time, Non-Exempt.
Full Benefits, including paid leave and health insurance.

Job Summary

The Program Coordinator will work with the Executive Director of NMCADSV, Associate Director, and other NMCADSV staff to achieve its mission, goals, and objectives. The Program Coordinator will report to NMCADSV's Associate Director, assist with the daily operations of NMCADSV, and provide support for NMCADSV's programmatic activities. The Program Coordinator will plan and execute activities in relation to NMCADSV's mission and goals, with particular attention to specific activities outlined in corresponding grant applications.

Duties

- Confers with and reports to the Associate Director
- Assists with the coordination of all NMCADSV activities, including training and program development.
- Assists with development of presentation and training materials.
- Conducts presentations and assists with training events.
- Develops and executes community outreach and education activities.
- Assists with program evaluation.
- Maintains relationships and works collaboratively with a variety of organizations.
- Builds and maintains partnerships with community organizations and government agencies.
- Works with community organizations and government agencies to identify and address training needs.
- Attends all meetings (virtual or in-person) as assigned.
- Travels to national and inter-island meetings and conferences, as required or requested.
- Assists in grants management, including the preparation of application packets, gathering data for reports, and preparing reports.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Minimum Qualifications

- An agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence
- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- Experience with community organizing and/or outreach
- Experience planning and executing events
- Demonstrated proficiency in written and oral communication
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Applications and Google Applications
- Ability to manage multiple tasks and deadlines
- Ability to work some nights and weekends
- Experience with assessments and analysis
- Must be able to travel within the CNMI and US Mainland

Highly - Desired Qualifications

- Experience working in social justice or working directly with survivors of domestic violence and/or sexual assault.
- Knowledge of dynamics of sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
- Knowledge of and commitment to culturally relevant, empowerment, and strength-based strategies for eliminating sexual violence and/or domestic violence.
- 1 year or more of documented experience/work with non-profit organizations or volunteerism
- Own transportation, with documented insurance, registration, and a valid driver's license.

How to Apply (Deadline: Wednesday, June 21, 2023 at 5:00 PM)

A Resume and Cover Letter should be submitted on or before 5:00 PM on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. Provide a list (not copies) of any certifications or awards. Late and incomplete submissions will not be considered. Resumes, cover letters, and other documents may be emailed to info@endviolencenmi.org OR delivered to the NMCADSV Office at the Marina Heights I Building in Puerto Rico, Saipan during hours of operation OR mailed to NMCADSV postmarked on or before the deadline.

Applicants who are asked to interview will be asked to bring a copy of their Diploma(s) or equivalent, Police Clearance (dated within 30 days), valid Passport, and a list of references. NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer. Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is supported by Grant No. 15JOVW-21-GG-00717-MUMU awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice and Grant No. 2201MPSDVC awarded by the Administration for Children and Families, US Department of Health and Human Services. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/proposal/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the US Department of Justice or the US Department of Health and Human Services.

SHS clinic continues to provide essential animal health services

Saipan Humane Society, the newly established 501c3 non-profit animal welfare organization in the CNMI, announced yesterday the continued success of their veterinary clinic, offering surgeries and consultations to pets in need.

Despite initial challenges caused by a recent Typhoon Mawar and rescheduling to accommodate changes in veterinarian schedules, the dedicated volunteer team remains steadfast in their mission to deliver high-quality animal health services to the CNMI community.

"We are a very small team, with only three of us coordi-

nating care for an island with 20,000 dogs and countless cats. We deeply appreciate the patience and understanding of our community as we work toward increasing our capacity to provide comprehensive animal health services," said SHS president Lauren Cabrera.



The clinic has provided surgeries and consultations to a considerable number of animals in need, showcasing the community's eagerness to ensure the well-being of their pets. On a typical day, the clinic will see between 20-50 patients for needs ranging from Bravecto and vaccines to lump



Dr. Whitney Collins performs surgery on a pet dog. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Saipan Humane Society clinic director Ruby Ma cuddles with a clinic patient. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Board of Directors

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Friday, June 23, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary Matters

- A. Call to Order
- B. Swearing in of New Board Member Simon Sanchez
- C. Roll Call
- D. Adoption of Agenda*
- E. Adoption of Minutes
 - 1. April 21 -27, 2023 Regular and Continued Board Meeting
 - 2. May 17, 2023 Special Board Meeting
- F. Correspondence

II. Management Reports

- A. Executive Director's Report
- B. Chief Financial Officer's Report
- C. Legal Counsel's Report

III. Committee Appointments

IV. Old Business

- A. Proposed Changes to the Classification & Compensation System

V. New Business

- A. Amendments to CUC Board Bylaws
- B. CUC Organizational Chart
 - 1. Procurement Reorganization
 - 2. Training Section
- C. Human Resources/Personnel Matters
 - 1. Employment Contract Terms
 - 2. Compensation Salary Range
 - 3. Travel/Training Policy
- D. Legal Matters
 - 1. Power Generation Matters
 - 2. Stipulated order no.1 Vacant Positions

VI. Public Comments**

VII. Executive Session***

VIII. Announcements

IX. Adjournment

/s/

JANICE A. TENORIO, CHAIRWOMAN

*In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.

**All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.

*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

removals, amputations, and spay/neuter surgeries.

Saipan Humane Society dedicates all the funds they receive toward purchasing necessary supplies and medications for the clinic. The high cost of starting a veterinary clinic poses significant financial challenges. However, the team remains committed to their cause and hopes to reach a point where they can compensate their full-time volunteers and expand their team.

Ruby Ma, the clinic director, exemplifies the organization's dedication by working long hours at the clinic and spending additional time completing financial statements and data entry.

"We believe in the importance of being a sustainable and

financially transparent organization, but this requires considerable effort," explained Ma.

Despite the overwhelming volume of phone calls and messages received daily, the team has limited capacity to respond to each inquiry but expresses gratitude for the understanding and support of the community.

The veterinary clinic, coordinated by Saipan Humane Society, is made possible through the generosity of donors and volunteers, as well as a strong partnership with the Saipan Mayor's Dog Control Program. The SHS clinic is situated within the recently built Mayor's Animal Shelter in As Perdido.

"This partnership has significantly enhanced the availability of services to our com-

Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In Re the :
Matter of the :
Petition for the :
Appointment of General :
Guardianship for: :
D.A.J. :
Minor Child :
By: :
LORY ANN SIOZITARO :
Petitioner :

FCD-GU
CIVIL ACTION
NO. 23-0184
**NOTICE OF
HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 17th day of May, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB23-CHCC/HPP/PHEPP-014

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 6TH, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

**HOSPITAL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM/
PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PROGRAM
"LEASE OF VEHICLES"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB23-CHCC/RHC-015

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 6TH, 2023 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

**ROTA HEALTH CENTER
"LEASE OF VEHICLES"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

on Saipan, has been instrumental in helping the team catch up on surgeries and addressing numerous requests for veterinary consultations.

Collins has also provided invaluable training to the SHS and DCP teams, imparting skills such as the examination of skin and fecal samples under a microscope, insertion of IV catheters, and more.

Saipan Humane Society extends gratitude to the many community donors who have made this clinic possible. Saipan Vegas Hotel generously sponsored accommodations for the visiting veterinarian, which would have otherwise placed a significant financial burden on the volunteer-run organization. Atkins Kroll provided a sponsored vehicle for the veterinarian's transportation. Several local restaurants, including The Shack, Godfather's, Spicy Thai, Lucky Bill's, American Pizza Bar and Grill, and Oh My Grill, stepped forward to sponsor lunches for the volunteer team, fostering a sense of community support.

Looking toward the future, Saipan Humane Society aims to grow to a point where they can sustain paid staff and expand their team.

"The people here care deeply for their pets, and the demand for veterinary services is overwhelming. We strive to make our services accessible to all. We are hoping to receive more financial support to help us get through the painful startup phase so we can become a sustainable clinic here for the long haul," said Cabrera.

Ultimately, the organization hopes to bring veterinarians on a regular basis throughout the year. When no veterinarian is present, they will continue to offer limited services and consultations in collaboration with virtual veterinarians. (PR)

USCG, partners work on vessels affected by Typhoon Mawar



U.S. Coast Guard Incident Management Assist Team members observe efforts to refloat the tug *Polaris* on June 11, 2023, in the Port of Guam.

By SARA MUIR
U.S. COAST GUARD FORCES MICRONESIA/
SECTOR GUAM

SANTA RITA, Guam—In the aftermath of the powerful Typhoon Mawar, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam personnel continue actively addressing vessel casualties and potential pollution in Apra Harbor, Hagåtña Boat Basin, and Agat Marina from the end of May into the middle of June. With sustained winds of up to 150 mph, the storm caused significant damage to maritime infrastructure.

Capt. Nick Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam, emphasized the Captain of the Port’s responsibility for pollution response and commercial vessel safety, stating, “We are committed to ensuring the safety and protection of our waters. Our collaboration with port partners has been exceptional, and I would like to extend my gratitude for their diligence and cooperation during this challenging time.”

Initial observation reports indicated three barges, two mobile crane barges, and a derelict vessel broke free from commercial piers and grounded in the Piti Channel, while the dry dock at Cabras partially submerged near Pier F3 with the tug *Polaris*.

“We are aware and engaged on all vessel casualties related to the storm. Our teams are actively monitoring the situation to ensure a swift and effective response,” said Simmons.

■ The sailboat *Pros* is the only vessel confirmed to be sunken. Responders issued the owner a Captain of the Port order to provide a salvage plan or risk federal intervention.

■ The Cabras tug *Polaris*, which was partially sub-

merged, has been successfully refloated by T&T Salvage.

■ The next priority is addressing the mostly submerged Cabras dry dock, and the company engaged the services of T&T Salvage to handle the situation.

■ In the harbor of refuge, there are two barges and one derelict vessel aground, which pose no pollution potential or hazard to navigation. Cabras plans to salvage these vessels.

■ The Cabras tug *Magas*, sister tug to the *Polaris*, was initially soft aground but has since been freed.

■ All other vessels of concern have been addressed by their responsible parties.

To mitigate potential pollution risks, responders continue conducting regular harbor patrols to monitor existing issues and identify any new hazardous materials or pollution items. Since May 24, responders identified 19 commercial or private vessels affected by the storm. While these vessels potentially contained limited quantities of gasoline, diesel fuel, and hydraulic oil, they did not pose a hazard to navigation. Most vessel owners have proactively taken the necessary steps to remove and restore their vessels by contracting professional services.

The U.S. Coast Guard swiftly responded to the aids to navigation crisis created by the storm, mobilizing the USCGC *Sequoia* (WLB 215) crew alongside the dedicated personnel of the U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor and the Maritime Safety and Security Team Honolulu.

The invaluable support of the U.S. Coast Guard Regional Dive Locker Pacific, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5, and the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 Detachment Guam further

augmented the combined efforts of these units. Coupled with efforts from commercial port partners, their collective expertise allowed for surveying underwater areas, efficient movement of ATON supplies, and effective clearance of submerged obstacles. As a result of their tireless work, the Port of Guam reopened in just three days, providing vital relief and support to the affected communities. The islands of Saipan and Tinian restored their ports sooner, having suffered less damage. While a few aids still require permanent repairs, these issues have been communicated through broadcast notice to mariners, ensuring continued awareness and transparency.

U.S. Coast Guard Forces

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the :
Matter of the :
Petition for the :
Appointment of General : FCD-GU
Guardianship for: CIVIL ACTION
: NO. 23-0185
T.R.L. :
Minor Child :
By: : NOTICE OF
LORY ANN SIOZITARO : HEARING
Petitioner :

Notice is hereby given that the
above-entitled matter is set for a
hearing on July 5, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. in
Courtroom 217A, before Associate
Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 17th day of May, 2023.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR
U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam responders and members of the U.S. Coast Guard Incident Management Assist Team monitor salvage efforts to refloat tug *Polaris* in the Port of Guam on May 7, 2023, ahead of a port users group meeting to discuss the storm response.

Micronesia/Sector Guam remains committed to ensuring the safety and environmental integrity of the region’s waters. Crews will continue to work closely with port partners and relevant stakeholders to address the challenges posed by Typhoon Mawar and ensure a swift recovery.

ARTICLE OF DISSOLUTION OF
LIMA ETERNAL CO., LTD
Contact No.: (670) 287-7728

Lima Eternal Co., Ltd, a CNMI Company. Does Hereby Certify that Lima Eternal Co., Ltd

First: That dissolution was authorized by the company on June 15, 2023.

Second: That dissolution has been authorized in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 14, Subchapter A, Section 14.02 of the CNMI Corporation regulations.

Third: That process maybe serves against the Company/corporation at the following address: P.O. BOX 502611 Saipan MP 96950.

Fourth: That a resolution proposing dissolution has been adopted and approved by the majority of the shareholders.

Fifth: That number votes can be cast and two votes were cast in favor of this dissolution. In Witness Whereof, Said, Lima Eternal Co., Ltd has caused this article of dissolution to be signed by the following Board of Directors at this 15th day of June, 2023.

Approved by:
/s/ Peifang Yang (President Signature)
/s/ Jimmy Joseph W. Limes (Vice-President Signature)
/s/ Jiepin Limes (Secretary Signature)

DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION (SAIPAN)
Shell Gasoline Service Stations
Has an opening for an Auditor/Accounting Staff

For established small business

- Responsible for accurate auditing of daily sales reports for service stations
- Responsible in monthly sales summary reports and fuel reconciliation.
- Must have confidence working with numbers
- Able to adhere to and meet reporting deadlines
- Must demonstrate understanding of accounting controls and principles.
- Must have thorough analytical skills for reconciliation of fleet cards and credit card transactions.
- Must demonstrate ability to communicate effectively in English.
- Can work under minimum supervision.
- Can work on a fast paced environment.
- Experience with QuickBooks, NAV, Microsoft Excel (spreadsheet) and Word programs.
- Organized, honest, trustworthy and a team player.
- Great attitude.
- We will train the right person
- On island reference & police clearance required.

E-mail resume to: islandtrainingsolutions@gmail.com
and deltaspn@pticom.com

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

College isn't the only path to success

Spurred by a robust job market, a growing number of young Americans are choosing to forgo college for the workforce. Politicians of both parties should welcome this trend and build on it—not least, by shifting resources from traditional college pathways and toward work-based alternatives that provide students with real-world skills.

Last year, 62% of recent high school graduates were enrolled in college, the smallest share in two decades and eight points lower than 2009, when enrollment peaked. Some of that drop can be attributed to pandemic-era school closures, during which many college-age students abandoned their studies and never returned. Rising wages have also made entry-level work more appealing.

Yet there's evidence that many students are not so much rejecting higher education as seeking a better return on their investment. While overall enrollment in community colleges has plunged nearly 20% since the start of the pandemic, demand has risen for two-year programs that award credentials in technical trades, such as construction, auto repair and IT services. Registered apprenticeships, which combine some classroom instruction with paid on-the-job training, have grown 64% since 2012.

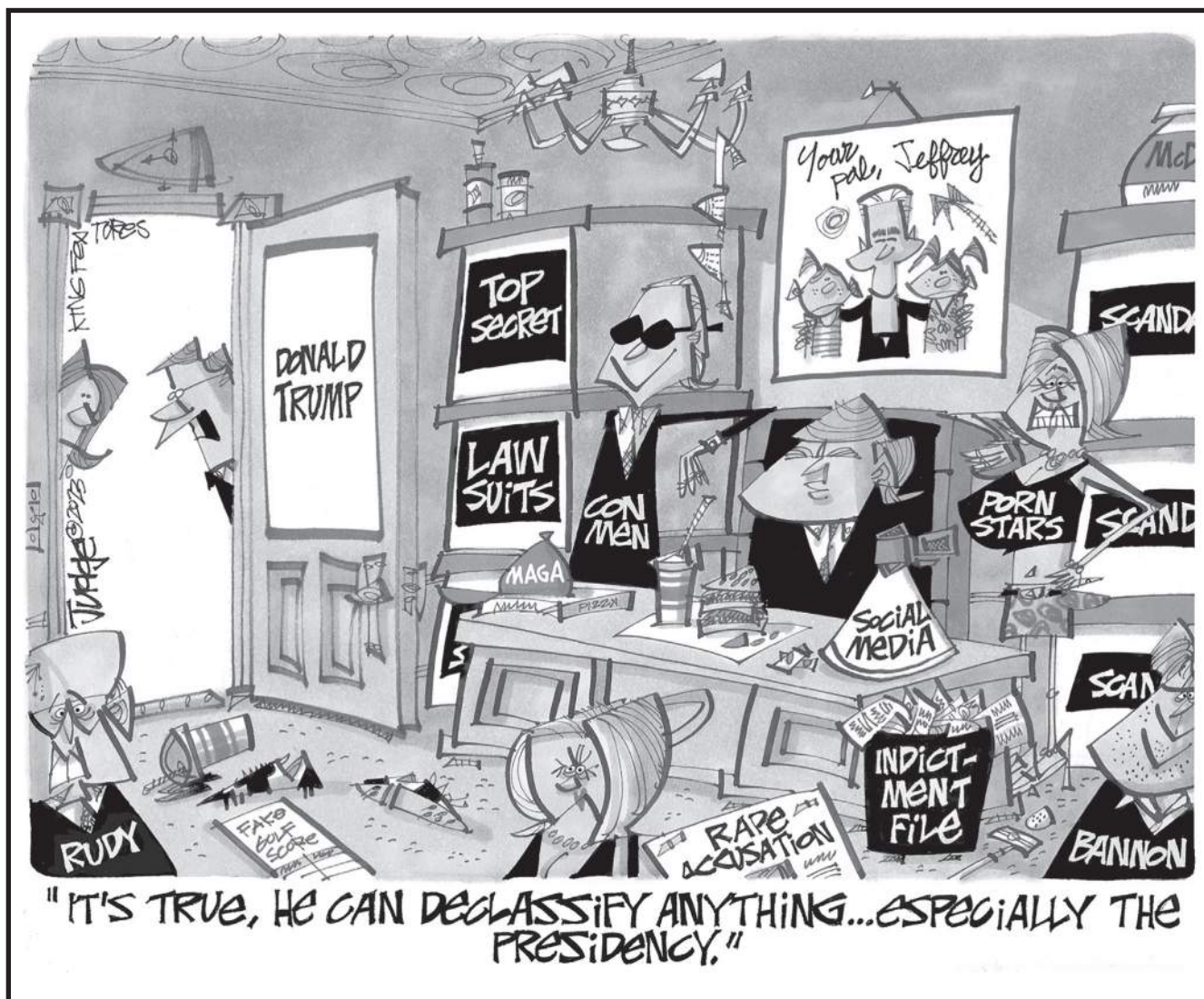
To the extent that people are gaining practical skills, this trend is encouraging. Some 60% of new jobs created in the next decade will be in fields that don't typically require a college degree. Many fast-growing non-degree professions pay more than the national median. While it's true that workers with four-year degrees have higher lifetime earnings, nearly 40% of those who enroll in college don't actually finish—and in the process amass student-loan debts they're unlikely to repay.

Expanding work-based college alternatives would go a long way toward filling skills shortages, boosting economic opportunity and reducing household debt. Yet government policies aren't doing enough to advance that goal. Traditional schools receive about \$400 billion annually in federal and state funding; apprenticeship programs get about 0.1% of that. President Joe Biden has advocated non-college alternatives but has also pushed to cancel federal student-loan debts—a policy that only encourages students to pursue expensive degrees.

The US needs to adjust its priorities. To start, the administration should work with Congress to shift a greater share of higher-education budgets to supporting work-based programs, particularly apprenticeships. Students should be allowed to use Pell Grants and other forms of aid to pay for short-term training courses. Encouraging the growth of “intermediaries”—private firms and nonprofits that cover the wages and tuition of apprentices while they receive training—would be another positive step, so long as the government conducts proper oversight.

Employers and school districts should also collaborate to expand vocational training. A model is CareerWise Colorado, which since 2016 has placed more than 1,000 high-school students in multi-year apprenticeships, enabling them to gain academic credits while receiving paid job training. One study found that 37% of participants continued on in full or part-time work, while 27% enrolled in college full-time. The program is based on Switzerland's apprenticeship system, which enrolls 70% of students starting in the 11th grade and has helped drive the country's youth unemployment rate below 3%. (CareerWise Colorado receives support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, the philanthropic organization of Bloomberg LP founder and majority

See COLLEGE on Page 9



Xi—a man at a global crossroads

While you have been up to your eyeballs in the gush of breaking news, willful distortions and pathetic panicky lies ever since the historic first-ever arrest of a former American president, the rest of the world has kept right on spinning.

And although you perhaps didn't notice it, the world outside Trump USA has been quietly making news that may be even more historic. It could change our lives—big-time, for all-time. We may be witnessing the quiet making of yet another, more enduring, New World Order.

It's not your fault that you missed it. Most of America's News Deciders apparently think this kind of global news just isn't exciting enough to become click-bait. So they haven't made sure you saw it. But let's just stand back and look at the big picture that is being formed by the latest global events. It is a big picture with just one person at the center of it: No, not Joe Biden. Not Vladimir Putin. And definitely not Donald Trump.

It is China's President Xi Jinping. Xi is standing at a crossroads—it's his personal crossroads, yet also our geopolitical crossroads. Xi is ready to take his next, bold step. We can only hope he finally hears and heeds the advice he needs now, more than ever.

Look at Xi at his X-roads -- it's the global news you may have missed:

Wednesday, in Beijing, Xi was making news one step at a time. He was walking along a grand red carpet, reviewing China's troops. With him was a most unlikely world figure—the Palestinian Authority's President Mahmoud Abbas.

Xi has been working for some time at showing to the world an all-new China that now wields the sort of global clout that comes with being a leader of the global economy. Xi has moved vigorously into areas where America once was dominant but now has frayed ties. Such as the Middle East, where Biden's bonds with Saudi Arabia's royalty and Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu are weaker than ever before. Xi has assumed a vital diplomatic role for China in Middle East diplomacy. And he is trying to do much the same in (of all places) the Americas; at least the dictatorships of the Americas.

In December, Xi visited Saudi Arabia, where of course he talked oil. In February, Xi hosted a visit by Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi. In March, Xi performed a geopolitical feat that once seemed unthinkable for a Chinese leader—he facilitated secret talks in which the Saudis and Iranians stunned the world by reopening diplomatic relations.

Now this: On Wednesday, China and the United States announced Secretary of State Antony Blinken will meet in Beijing Sunday and

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**

Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



Monday with top leaders including Xi—the visit Blinken canceled after China sent its infamous spy balloon to float over U.S. nuclear missile sites. On Friday, Xi met with citizen zillionaire Bill Gates, and said: “You are the first American friend to visit me this year.”

All the diplo-politicos and academic experts are of course lowering expectations for the on-again official U.S.-China talks. After all, Xi's mind has been engaged in its own internal tug-of-war: He has seen that Putin's Ukraine invasion and war-criminal slaughter of civilians has made him a global pariah—forever. Yet Xi has been making the world wonder if we are witnessing a Putinization of Xi's China—by taking militarily aggressive acts that trigger concerns that he might attack independently governed Taiwan.

But the U.S.-China talks can produce results that greatly benefit both sides—if Blinken is willing to take a decidedly nontraditional, unique approach. I hope he is bold enough to tell the Chinese that, for once, he wants to play his hand with all the cards face up.

Let Blinken candidly tell Xi this is an unprecedented opportunity to show the world he can be a leader of the global economy—along with the United States. America doesn't want to be an adversary, but perhaps an economic partner. They can envision a partnership in which collaboration replaces sanctions.

But Blinken needs to emphasize that can never happen unless Xi shows the world that he has learned the lesson Putin just taught the world—the lesson of what NOT to do.

Blinken can suggest that Xi has a unique chance to show the world he can be a 21st century global leader—by forging a new constructive relationship with Taiwan. Let Xi's China and Taiwan agree to establish a special, collaborative economic relationship. It can only happen if both sides pledge they will never take military action against the other. And mean it. Forever.

That's the only way the Chinese people in both lands can enjoy a future of peace through prosperity.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

3 good ways to celebrate our 250th birthday

America is getting up in years. Well, we're still toddlers compared to international ancients such as Iran (founded 3200 B.C.) and Egypt (3100 B.C.). But if we survive until July 4, 2026, our nation will reach the venerable age of 250 years.

How shall we celebrate the occasion? Former president Donald Trump has some ideas:

Recently Trump proposed, if he is elected, a yearlong celebration of our 250 years of nationhood. He says that we should prepare "a most spectacular birthday party. We want to make it the best of all time."

Trump envisions an American State Fair at the Iowa State Fairgrounds, an exhibition showcasing "the glory of every state in the union."

He proposes Patriot Games, a year of "major sporting contests for high school athletes." And he says that he will sign an executive order to create a National Garden of American Heroes. He wants to immediately commission artists for the first 100 statues in a new park "honoring the greatest Americans of all time."

"It's gonna be great."

Some of these may not be bad ideas, but it's hard to ignore the whiff of bread and circuses from a candidate who wishes to be our president again. After all, Iowa is an important early primary state, and Trump knows that Americans love few things more than sports.

But a National Garden of American Heroes? Haven't we already had enough trouble with statues? Trump probably has statuary candidates in mind, but is our country currently in a mood to decide who the 100 greatest Americans of all time are?

Trump has a flair for the spectacular, but I wonder if a more constrained celebration of our nation's founding would be more meaningful.

Certainly on July 4, 2026, we should have some parades, speeches, ceremonies and flyovers; all nations are drawn together by a little pomp and circumstance.

But are there better ways to celebrate our 250th birthday? Here are three possibilities:

We could encourage a national commitment by all Americans to read a substantial biography of our greatest president, Abraham Lincoln. Citizens who complete this task would get a medal or ribbon or certificate; Trump will think of something.

In many respects the nation that we know today began some fourscore and seven years after 1776, when we embraced union and equality, finally putting an end to 250 years of slavery and beginning our long, halting slog toward equal rights for all, a worthy journey that we're still on.

This is a story that every American should know, and nothing tells it better than the life of Abraham Lincoln.

Second: Let's sponsor a contest or lottery that sends, say, 1,000 families at public expense to visit the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown, Massachusetts.

During the Siege of Boston in 1775, colonials repulsed two assaults before being overrun by 3,000 British regulars, losing the battle but demonstrating that our incipient nation was prepared to fight for its independence and was a worthy match for the British.

And like nearly all battlefields—Shiloh, Gettysburg, Nor-

By JOHN M. CRISP

Tribune News Service

John M. Crisp, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, lives in Texas and can be reached at jcrispcolumns@gmail.com.



mandy—Bunker Hill reminds us that, alas, nationhood nearly always involves bloodshed, as well as the courage of citizens willing to fight for it.

Finally, how about something practical that we can do at home?: On July 4, 2026, let's all go into our backyards and burn an American flag. Actually, let's NOT do that and imagine that we did. The symbol itself deserves some degree of respect.

But our commitment to free speech makes us near-unique among world nations, virtually all of which punish desecration of national symbols. The fact that we have the courage and self-confidence to permit that sort of speech is itself worth celebrating.

A human life isn't cleanly analogous to the life of a nation, but as I get older, birthdays seem to be less about celebration and more about reflection. How many birthdays we've had is less important than what they mean.

And focusing for a few days in 2026 on what America really means would be a fine way to celebrate the birthday of our great nation.

Democrats and Republicans met to subvert a third party option. So much for caring about what voters want

This week, it was reported that a group of leading Democratic strategists and former officials—including President Joe Biden's former chief of staff—met recently with anti-Trump Republicans to hatch a plan to "subvert" a third option for the 2024 presidential race from the group No Labels, which I lead.

To be clear, this was not a meeting about how to beat No Labels on the merits (which we would welcome). Rather, it was a meeting about how to find and exploit legal technicalities, silence supporters interested in our approach and raise money for a campaign against us.

This collusion between leading members of the two parties is, in truth, not all that surprising. It proves what many of us have been saying for years: that instead of working together to solve actual problems, these leaders and operatives are aligned only when it comes to protecting their duopoly in a bitterly polarized country.

But Americans want to see more choices. A record number of voters are now abandoning the two parties in search of a better option. The percentage who identify as independent is now equal to the percentage of Republicans and Democrats combined. So why aren't independents already gaining power? Because no independent candidate has proved capable of organizing and building the infrastructure required to mount a successful nation-

al movement. This is a problem No Labels is attempting to solve.

We are working to get on the ballot in all 50 states to create the opening for a potential independent unity ticket in 2024, which would feature a Democrat and a Republican as running mates. We will only utilize our ballot line if the two parties continue to abandon the common sense majority. If most Americans are satisfied with one or the other major party nominee, we will stand down. We would also back down if the polling indicates we would be a spoiler for either party.

So far, the two parties appear likely to deliver a rematch between Trump and Biden in 2024, which two-thirds of voters do not want. Record numbers of voters say they would support a third-party candidate for president if given the chance. Democrats and anti-Trump Republicans are working to deny them that chance, which is particularly ironic for Democrats who talk about defending democracy and voters' rights.

The private meeting could have been purposed around coming up with ideas to improve the two parties and make No Labels unnecessary. This would have accomplished the same goal. Instead of embracing competition, those strategists and think tank leaders dedicated their attention to devising ways to block us and limit voters' choices.

This reaction of "How dare they challenge us?" is common

By NANCY JACOBSON

Los Angeles Times

Nancy Jacobson is co-founder and CEO of No Labels.



among incumbent powers in the private sector too. When a powerful industry is threatened by an innovative start-up, the established companies often seek to block the start-up with lawsuits rather than simply improving their product offerings. Think of the taxi companies suing to stop Uber, or cable companies fighting streaming platforms, or the hotel industry trying to block Airbnb. We know how these disputes ended.

We're confident that the will of voters will prove just as hard to suppress as the will of customers. No Labels has already proved in Congress that our strategy of common sense solutions can lead to results. We helped establish a bipartisan group of lawmakers called the Problem Solvers Caucus in the House, which has helped achieve numerous victories such as the infrastructure bill in 2021.

Today, the two-party status quo is a stale system that is not working for the people it is designed to serve. The best way to refresh a stale system is through competition, by forcing complacent incumbents to improve their ideas to survive. Voters are calling for this in their desire for a third option in the 2024 presidential race and No Labels is preparing to offer that choice.

The two parties, sadly, would rather seek to quash our effort than compete against it. They don't seem to realize that by trying to suppress our movement they are showing the country exactly why we're needed.

COLLEGE

From Page 8

owner Michael Bloomberg.)

The Biden administration has endorsed legislation to create nearly 1 million new apprenticeships. Reaching that goal could cost as much as \$4 billion annually—a significant outlay, but still a fraction of what other advanced economies invest to prepare students for the workforce. Giving more young Americans a path to career success would be money well spent.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Happy Juneteenth, CNMI!

It took our nation 158 years to recognize slaves for their contribution to America with a holiday that is now being celebrated by all Americans regardless of their race. African-Americans are truly looked up to in America by many and throughout the world with genuine admiration and compassion for what our ancestors went through. But "we as a people still have a ways to go before we find the Promise Land." (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.)

The Juneteenth celebrations began with enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, as they were some of the last to learn about the emancipation proclamation. It was first celebrated at church picnics and speaking events and spread as Black Texans moved elsewhere. Although President Abraham Lincoln's emancipation proclamation freed the slaves in 1863, it could not be enforced in many places in the South until the Civil War ended in 1865. Even then, some white people who had profited from their unpaid labor were reluctant to share the news.

Most freed slaves didn't know what to do after being freed

and many didn't have any other option but to sharecrop for their previous slave master. There were even "sharecropping schemes" devised across the South to keep freed slaves on the plantations by overcharging them when crediting farming supplies, food products, and things at the store and for everything else, thus keeping them in debt and on the plantation.

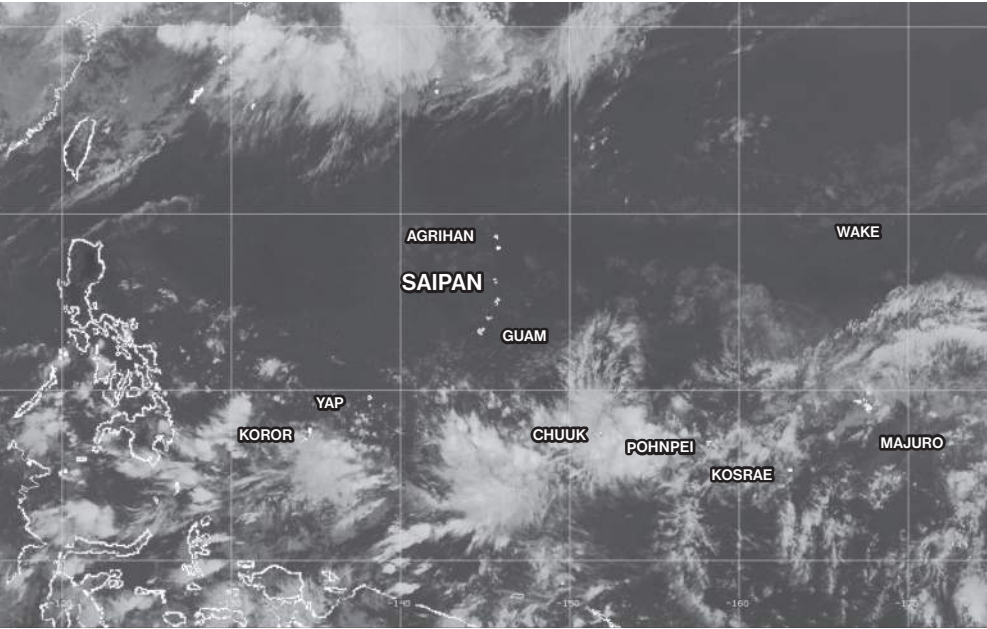
My mother's family suffered under the sharecropping scheme in Mississippi and they had to escape when her papa (Isaac) "had to point a gun at their former master who was trying to stop them from leaving, claiming Isaac still owed him for the mules pulling the wagon." You can read about it in my book, *MaDear* (Amazon.com). Juneteenth is also my wife and I meeting anniversary as we met 38 years ago on Juneteenth, so Juneteenth is truly special in our family. Wishing everyone a happy Juneteenth and a blessed family day!

Ambrose M. Bennett

Kagman III, Saipan

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		Isolated showers. Mostly sunny		A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Partly sunny		Mostly sunny	
88°	78°	87°	79°	87°	79°	86°	80°	88°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:04 AM, SUNDAY, JUNE 18, 2023
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows partly cloudy skies and isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters today. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 4 to 6 feet, composed primarily of trade-wind swell from just south of east.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	88° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	81° / 75°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Showers	83° / 77°	
Kosrae	Cloudy	82° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Tuesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Thursday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:18 AM	7:52 PM	-
Tuesday	7:12 AM	8:42 PM	-
Wednesday	8:06 AM	9:27 PM	-
Thursday	8:58 AM	10:09 PM	-
Friday	9:48 AM	10:46 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 47°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	92° / 71°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	88° / 81°	
Honolulu	Showers	77° / 73°	
London	Partly Cloudy	67° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	87° / 61°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	92° / 79°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	62° / 49°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	81° / 64°	
Osaka	Cloudy	85° / 74°	
Paris	Showers	75° / 60°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	80° / 72°	
Rome	Sunny	91° / 66°	
Salem	Sunny	90° / 64°	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	69° / 51°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	89° / 68°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	84° / 73°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	79° / 65°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:45 AM	Low Tide	1.50	
7:02 AM	High Tide	1.94	
2:42 PM	Low Tide	-0.16	
10:09 PM	High Tide	1.98	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA156	6:55PM	7:40PM	1, 4 effective June 5	UA112	5:00PM	5:50PM	1, 4 effective June 5
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

Different buffet menu daily at Party & Beyond

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Party & Beyond goes above and beyond on its daily lunch buffet as the Gualo Rai restaurant serves a different set menu everyday.

Supervisor Julie Ann Arcilla said they started their daily lunch buffet in September 2021 during the height of COVID-19.

“The first time we opened it was COVID-19, and we didn’t want to make it too high and just OK for a small restaurant price.”

Party & Beyond is different from other buffets on Saipan

because their selections vary from day to day.

Their buffet lunch offering has eight different menu choices, such as chicken, pork, beef, and vegetables dishes plus two types of rice (plain rice or fried rice) and one soup. They also serve buns, butchi, and other breaded desserts.

“There are also fruits and drinks (iced tea and lemonade) that are included in the buffet, and most customers enjoy their buffet lunch with our well-known boba milk tea,” said Arcilla.

Just some of the specific dishes in the buffet spread include crispy fried chicken, beef with tomatoes, chicken with mushrooms, roasted pork, braised pork with potatoes, pork cutlet, lumpiang shanghai, corn soup, and stir-fried vegetables.

Arcilla said Party & Beyond so far has developed a loyal following for its daily lunch buffet.

“We have been receiving great feedback from customers saying that the food is delicious, the atmosphere is inviting and new, and the price is cheap and worth it. They mention that they will recommend and bring in new customers and we are always thankful for that and will always be ready to serve everyone!” she said.

Party & Beyond’s daily lunch buffet is from 11am to 2pm and costs only \$15 for adults 12 years old and above, \$8 for children 5 years old to 11 years old, and children 4 and below eat for free.



Party & Beyond’s buffet lunch offering has eight different menu choices, such as chicken, pork, beef, and vegetables dishes as well as two types of rice (plain rice or fried rice) and one soup.



Party & Beyond can accommodate up to 55 customers and its lunch buffet is open everyday from 11am to 2pm.

Arcilla said aside from their daily lunch buffet, Party & Beyond also has an ala carte menu from 5pm to 9pm and takeout bento lunch.

The \$6 bento includes three different menu choices from the lunch buffet menu, one choice of rice, and one soup.

Party & Beyond, located next to Paradise Dental along Middle Road in Gualo Rai, can accommodate up to 50-55 customers. For more information, call (670) 488-1199 or (670) 285-1809, or you can message their Facebook page at Party & Beyond Restaurant.

IN WAKE OF TYPHOON MAWAR

GRMC community avails of hospital’s resources and aid

DEDEDO, Guam—Guam Regional Medical City has extended its resources to assist hospital staff and their family members as they await the island’s recovery from the recent Typhoon Mawar.

Since Guam’s return to Condition of Readiness (COR) 4 last Thursday, May 25, GRMC provided shelter for its employees whose homes were destroyed or deemed unlivable due to excessive flooding or loss of power and water. Staff were provided with cots, blankets, and disposable pillows in designated sleeping areas throughout the hospital.

Shortly after the typhoon, family members were welcome to utilize the hospital’s Lower Lobby designated facilities to shower and charge their devices. GRMC Human Resources Generalist Kimberly Eleco shared, “I appreciated that GRMC welcomed our employees’ families, to include my own immediate family, in using the shower facilities during a time the island needed it the most.”

Other resources, such as ice and self-service laundry machines, were also made available. Staff volunteers would pre-package gallon bags of non-consumable ice and distribute it at the end of each day to staff in need. A washer and dryer were purchased by the hospital’s morale team for staff to do their laundry during their scheduled hourly slot.

GRMC’s Human Resources team acted quickly in ensuring staff were provided support in any way possible. Staff were immediately able to avail solo or group counseling services at the hospital from commu-

nity partners, International Health Providers, and local counselor, Risha Aguon, for those who experienced any trauma or emotional distress as a result of the typhoon.

Rachel Juliatti, a registered nurse with GRMC’s Emergency Department, shares that she had never experienced a typhoon before as a Brazil native. She expressed her gratitude in being able to avail of GRMC’s assistance, especially with counseling services. Juliatti said, “[Typhoon Mawar] was not a happy experience, but I feel grateful that I had the support that I needed.”

The HR team also worked with the Marketing & Communications department in orchestrating a donation drive that occurred from Monday, June 5 to Friday June 16, to help aid staff with basic necessities: non-perishable, unexpired foods and toiletries, beddings, and clothes in new, unopened, or clean and gently used conditions.

GRMC director of Care Management & Coordination, Mary Grace Libo-on, was one of many employees who were greatly affected by Typhoon Mawar; she lost her home and her car. She shared her experience of when a team from GRMC came to rescue her after being trapped in her bathroom for 12 hours throughout the typhoon and helped board up her shattered windows. “For employees like me, who suffered catastrophic losses during this typhoon, GRMC has become our refuge,” Libo-on said. “I could go on and talk about all the things we were offered by GRMC, but the most striking and important things is that we

[show] compassion in a time of loss and pain, and we lived up to our mission: to treat and care for our patients and their family members as we would a beloved family member. We all treated one another as a family member would.”

GRMC had also arranged for representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to assist staff in the hospital’s Lower Lobby for those who needed to apply for aid.

Diana Masga, GRMC ED Unit secretary, had suffered major damages to her home, which made it unlivable for her and her son. She shared that she spoke to her department manager, GRMC ED Manager, Ray San Nicolas, who worked with the HR department to find living accommodations for her and her son at a hotel for a few days, while she awaited the status of FEMA’s assistance. San Nicholas had also helped place her on the list to be contacted for self-laundry services at the hospital. Masga expressed, “We cannot believe the amount of assistance we have already received since the typhoon. Words are just not enough to express the gratitude, heartfelt relief, and comfort from [GRMC] and my [ED] manager!”

As the island remains in a state of emergency, GRMC will continue to provide these accommodations and utilize the best of its resources to support its staff during these challenging times. GRMC expresses their sincerest gratitude to all agencies working tirelessly to help our island recover from Typhoon Mawar. (PR)

Gov’t shutdown warnings rise as GOP seeks deeper cuts in budget battle

WASHINGTON (AP)—Speaker Kevin McCarthy’s bid to appease Republican hardliners and get the House moving again after a recent party rebellion on the floor has some Democrats warning of a difficult road ahead when it comes to passing legislation that will keep the government running.

Republicans teed up votes this past week on guns and on censuring one of former President Donald Trump’s most prominent critics, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif. Those votes helped get the House moving again, though the latter effort failed, with Schiff helped by some 20 Republicans.

The most consequential move of the week, however, was an announcement from GOP leadership that arrived with little fanfare. Republicans said they plan to pursue appropriations bills, which fund government programs

and agencies, with less spending than the top-line numbers they agreed to in a deal with the White House last month. That compromise avoided what would have been an unprecedented federal default.

McCarthy argued that the numbers he negotiated with the White House amount to a cap and “you can always do less.” GOP Rep. Kay Granger of Texas, who leads the House Appropriations Committee, followed with a statement that said she would seek to limit nondefense spending at 2022 budget levels, saying the debt agreement “set a top-line spending cap — a ceiling, not a floor.”

The announcements delighted Republicans who had criticized McCarthy, R-Calif., and opposed the debt ceiling legislation because they felt that agreement allowed too much spending. But it drew immediate pushback from Democrats who

say an attempt to circumvent the debt ceiling agreement’s top-line numbers effectively guarantees a standoff with the Senate and White House and possibly even a damaging government stoppage when funding expires this fall.

“It is a prelude to a shutdown — what they are engineering,” said Connecticut Rep. Rosa DeLauro, the top Democrat on the House Appropriations Committee.

The emerging dynamic raises the potential for another round of economy-rattling brinkmanship in Washington just months after lawmakers narrowly avoided a damaging federal default.

Partial government shutdowns have become increasingly common in the modern era, with the longest coming under President Donald Trump as he demanded money for a U.S.-Mexico border wall.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Party & Beyond is located next to Paradise Dental along Middle Road in Gualo Rai.

Nation

Biden strikes economic populist tone during campaign rally

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—President Joe Biden delivered an unabashedly economic populist message Saturday during the first rally of his reelection campaign, telling an exuberant crowd of union members that his policies had created jobs and lifted the middle class. Now, he said, is the time for the wealthy to “pay their fair share” in taxes.

Biden spotlighted the sweeping climate, tax and health care package signed into law last year that cut the cost of prescription drugs and lowered insurance premiums—pocketbook issues that advisers say will be the centerpiece of his argument for a second term.

“I’m looking forward to this campaign,” Biden said to cries of “four more years!” before adding, “We’ve got a record to run on.”

His choice of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania—and a friendly union audience—as his first official campaign stop reflected their crucial role in his reelection effort. The city was the site of his 2020 campaign headquarters and the state was one of a handful that had voted for Republican Donald Trump in 2016 but flipped back to Democrats four years later.

Until the rally, Biden’s primary reelection campaign ac-



President Joe Biden speaks at a political rally at the Philadelphia Convention Center in Philadelphia, Saturday, June 17, 2023.

tivity had been fundraising as the campaign tries to amass an impressive fundraising haul before the year’s second quarter concludes at the end of the month. The president raised money at a private home in Greenwich, Connecticut, on Friday and soon will hold fundraisers in California, Mary-

land, Illinois and New York.

More than 1,000 union workers representing professions from carpenters and airport service workers to entertainers and heavy service equipment engineers—most wearing T-shirts bearing their union’s logos—began chanting “Let’s go, Joe!” and “We

want Joe” and blowing whistles hours before the president arrived.

Biden did not mention any of his potential Republican opponents by name, but said many in the GOP “oppose everything I’ve done.” Pointing to high inflation rates, Republicans have criticized “Bidenomics” a term the president tried to turn back his oppo-

nents on Saturday.

“I don’t know what the hell that is,” he said, “but it’s working.”

The event, which organizers said included unions representing 18 million workers nationwide, recalled then-candidate Biden opening his 2020 presidential campaign at a union hall in Pittsburgh.

Several of the nation’s most

powerful unions—including the AFL-CIO, American Federation of Teachers and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees—officially endorsed Biden’s campaign on Friday. The first-of-its-kind joint endorsement among the unions, and the backdrop of hundreds of workers are part of a meticulously choreographed effort to show the support of labor behind what Biden himself calls the most pro-union president in history.

The union endorsements followed Wednesday’s joint endorsement from major environmental groups, a back-to-back backing by design, according to a campaign official, meant to demonstrate that tackling climate change through green jobs does not threaten workers’ rights.

Biden claimed in his remarks that if Wall Street bankers went on strike, no one would notice. But if unions members walked off the job, “the whole country would come to a grinding halt.” He also criticized those worth more than \$1 billion for paying, he said, as little as 8% in federal taxes.

That prompted a man in the audience to shout, “What do you pay?” to which Biden responded, “I pay a hell of a lot more than that.” He said repeatedly that the wealthy must “pay their fair share.”

Heat wave has US South sweltering

By KEN RITTER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Communities from Houston to New Orleans opened cooling centers to bring relief as steamy hot temperatures settled across a broad swath of the U.S. South on Saturday, and beachgoers fled a waterspout that swept ashore on a Florida beach.

Gov. Greg Abbott, meanwhile, visited Perryton in the Texas Panhandle, where officials said more than 1,000 customers were left without electricity after a tornado killed three people late Thursday. The Perryton Ochiltree Chamber of Commerce said it would open a cooling center in the town of 8,000 people, about 115 miles (185 kilometers) northeast of Amarillo, to counteract the effects of the high temperatures that followed the storm.

“At times of events like these, Texans come together,” Abbott told reporters as he signed a disaster declaration that he said would “trigger all the resources the state can bring to bear ... to accelerate the ability to rebuild.”

The Republican governor said he was shocked to see how much of the town had been destroyed and praised what he called “non-stop heroic efforts by healthcare providers” who he said treated 160 injured people at the local hospital that has just 25 beds.

W. Nim Kidd, chief of the Texas Division of Emergency Management, warned that more severe weather was forecast for the area late Saturday, bringing rain, high winds and possibly more tornadoes.

The National Weather Service issued excessive heat warnings through Saturday night along the Gulf Coast from Brownsville, Texas, to Houston. It said heat indexes ranging from near 115 degrees Fahrenheit (46 Celsius) in Houston to near 120 F (49 C) at Brownsville and Corpus Christi in Texas. Cooling shelters were set up in cities along the coast and farther inland for residents left without electricity.

“What’s really going is the humidity,” said Allison Prater, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Fort Worth,

Texas. “That’s making the heat index, or the ‘feels like’ temperature really skyrocket.”

Prater said the air temperature Saturday in the Dallas area could reach 94 F (34 C), but high humidity would make it feel like 105 F (40.5 C).

“The reason we’re having such heat is there is a lot of moisture being pulled up from the Gulf of Mexico,” Prater said. “That’s working with the warmer temperatures to induce ... that ‘feels like’ temperature.”

Two women and an 11-year-old boy died when the tornado slammed into Perryton. On Saturday, authorities upgraded the intensity of the twister to EF-3, saying it packed winds of up to 140 mph (225 kph).

Ochiltree County Sheriff Terry Bouchard told KVII-TV in Amarillo that missing people had been located.

“It dropped down right on top of Perryton,” Bouchard said. “We’ve lost a lot of homes, businesses, rental properties. There’s just a lot of damage to our community and it’s going to take some time to get this cleaned up.”

DeSantis quiet on Trump indictment

GARDNERVILLE, Nevada (AP)—Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis on Saturday condemned Walt Disney World and the U.S. Justice Department—not his chief Republican rival, Donald Trump—as he courted Nevada Republicans deep in the heart of Trump country.

The U.S. “is off the rails,” the Republican governor said. “Insanity is reigning supreme.”

Speaking to Nevada Republicans for the first time as a presidential candidate, DeSantis made no direct mention of the federal indictment of Trump, who is facing dozens of felony counts for mishandling classified documents.

“We’re going to end this weaponization of government once and for all,” said DeSantis, donning an untucked short-sleeve shirt from a podium adorned with bales of hay and bull horns.

The comments come as the GOP’s crowded 2024 presidential class grapples with how to respond to Trump’s recent indictment. While

some Republicans have raised serious concerns about the charges, DeSantis has largely ignored the situation, touching on it only generally by attacking the Justice Department.

Looking up at Trump in many polls, it’s unclear if DeSantis can catch Trump by avoiding one of the dominant issues in the race.

The debate was playing out as DeSantis courted more than 2,000 conservatives, many Trump loyalists among them, who gathered for an annual Basque Fry under a blazing sun at a western Nevada ranch.

DeSantis’ team believes he is especially well-positioned to compete with Trump in Nevada, one of the first four states to host a presidential primary contest early next year.

Beyond issues like his “war on woke,” DeSantis also hopes to benefit from a close personal connection with a top Republican leader. Adam Laxalt, a former state attorney general and host of Saturday’s

gathering, was a roommate of DeSantis during naval officer training and has long remained a friend. Despite serving as Trump’s Nevada chairman during the 2020 election, Laxalt already lined up behind the Florida governor by becoming the chairman of DeSantis’ national super PAC.

“I believe Gov. DeSantis is the only person in America who can win the primary and the general and be a conservative warrior for all of us,” Laxalt said as he introduced DeSantis.

Despite his optimism, it was unclear on Saturday how many Republican voters in this pivotal western state were convinced to abandon Trump. There was only a smattering of polite applause as the early speakers tried to cast DeSantis as the GOP’s best hope in 2024.

Don Fautt, a Republican voter from nearby Sparks, Nevada, said he would support DeSantis in the upcoming primary only if Trump were not on the ballot.

Asia

US, Japan, PH agree to strengthen security ties

TOKYO (AP)—The national security advisers of the United States, Japan and the Philippines held their first joint talks Friday and agreed to strengthen their defense cooperation, as Washington and its partners reinforce their alliances to adapt to growing tensions over North Korea, China and Ukraine, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan said.

Sullivan said he and his Japanese and Philippine counterparts discussed the "turbulent regional security environment and how we can collectively work to enhance peace and stability" in areas including freedom of navigation and economic security.

Sullivan, Takeo Akiba of Japan and Eduardo Ano of the Philippines said in a joint statement that they emphasized the importance of enhancing three-way cooperation, building on alliances between Japan and the U.S. and between the Philippines and the U.S. to maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific, especially in the Taiwan Strait.

Sullivan said the "path-breaking" new trilateral framework is part of multiple alliances involving the United States in the Indo-Pacific region, including three-way cooperation with Japan and South Korea and the Quad security dialogue with Australia, India and Japan.

"I would say different groupings may have different points of priority and emphasis, but actually what we are finding is, the agenda is expanding because in a way the world is shrinking. And all of the problems everywhere are coming to touch every country in this area," Sullivan said.

Sullivan said U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken is not expected to make a significant breakthrough during his visit on Sunday to China, while Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington later in the week "will mark a transformational moment in U.S.-India relations."

The three security advisers discussed opportunities for joint naval exercises in Indo-Pacific waters and agreed to deepen military cooperation in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, they said.

During a visit to Tokyo by Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. in February, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida pledged 600 billion yen (\$4.3 billion) in development aid and private investment. The two leaders agreed to have their militaries cooperate in disaster relief operations in the Philippines, seen as a step toward a pact allowing their forces to visit and train on each other's soil.

On Thursday, Sullivan and Akiba held a separate three-

way meeting with their South Korean counterpart, Cho Tae-yong, which Sullivan said had a "profound impact" on strengthening their cooperation following a recent improvement in Japan-South Korea ties.

Japan in December adopted a new National Security Strategy in which it set a goal of doubling its defense spending to 43 trillion yen (\$310 billion) over the next five years to fund a military buildup, including developing a strike capability in a major break from its self-defense-only policy long observed under its post-World War II pacifist constitution.

Under the new strategy, Japan began security assistance for the militaries of developing nations, primarily in the Indo-Pacific region, and is likely to provide Japanese-made non-lethal equipment such as radar, antennas, small patrol boats and improvements to infrastructure such as ports. The Philippines is a major candidate.

China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei are locked in tense territorial standoffs over the South China Sea. The United States has no claims to the waters, but says freedom of navigation and overflight and the peaceful resolution of disputes in the key international waterway are in its national interest.

Blinken stresses need for better US-Chinese communications

WASHINGTON (AP)—Shortly before setting out for Beijing, Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Friday emphasized the importance of the U.S. and China establishing better lines of communication. He will be the highest-ranking member of the Biden administration to visit China.

The U.S. wants to make sure "that the competition we have with China doesn't veer into conflict" due to avoidable misunderstandings, Blinken told reporters in Washington.

Blinken, speaking alongside Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, said his China trip is the outgrowth of a meeting in Bali last year between Presidents Xi Jinping and Joe Biden. The two agreed that China and the United States, the world's biggest two economies and increasingly top rivals for global influence, must maintain contacts and and take steps to avoid unintended conflicts.

Blinken's trip came within a day of happening in February but was delayed by the diplomatic and political tumult brought on by the discovery of what the U.S. says was a Chinese spy balloon flying across the United States.

Biden and Xi had made commitments to improve communications "precisely so that we can make sure we are communicating as clearly as possible to avoid possible misunderstandings and miscommunications," Blinken said Friday. "The place you start is with communicating."

U.S. allies and others are signaling that they want the two rivals to "responsibly manage this relationship and look for areas where our cooperation might produce results that benefit not only our own people but people around the world, including in the region," he said.

Chinese officials have expressed suspicion of U.S.

efforts to establish reliable, high-level crisis communications, saying the U.S. wants them so as to dodge repercussions for provocative actions.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, speaking to reporters at the NATO defense ministers' meeting in Brussels on Friday, said he was confident that he and his Chinese counterpart would meet "at some point in time, but we're not there yet."

China rejected his request for a meeting with Li Shangfu at a security forum in Singapore early this month. Although the two did shake hands, they did not have any substantive discussion.

Austin said it was important for the two countries to talk to each other so they can manage potential crises and make sure "things aren't allowed to unnecessarily spiral out of control."

Blinken was to leave Washington late Friday for meetings with senior Chinese leaders on Sunday and Monday.

World

At least 41 killed in rebel attack on Ugandan school

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—Suspected rebels attacked a school in a remote area of Uganda near the Congo border, killing at least 41 people in a nighttime raid before fleeing across the porous frontier, authorities said. Thirty-eight students in their dormitories were among the victims.

Some students were burned beyond recognition, and others were shot or hacked to death after militants armed with guns and machetes attacked the school in the frontier district of Kasese, a local mayor told The Associated Press.

In addition to the 38 students, one guard and two residents of the local community in Mpondwe-Lhubiriha town were killed in the attack, said Mayor Selest Mapoze. A Ugandan military statement said the rebels abducted six students, taken as porters of food looted from the school's store.

The school, co-ed and privately owned, is located about two kilometers (just over a mile) from the Congo border.

Authorities are blaming the massacre at Lhubiriha Secondary School on the Allied Democratic Forces, or ADF, a shadowy extrem-



In this image made from video, people gather in front of a building of the Lhubiriha Secondary School following an attack on the school near the border with Congo, in Mpondwe, Uganda, Saturday, June 17, 2023.

ist group which has been launching attacks for years from bases in volatile eastern Congo. Villagers in the Congolese provinces of Ituri and North Kivu have been the victims of the group's alleged attacks in recent years.

But attacks on the Ugandan side of the border are rare, thanks in part to the presence of an alpine brigade of Ugandan troops in the region.

The attack has sent shockwaves in this normally peaceful East African country whose long-time leader cites security as a strength of his government. It is also a blow to the country's armed forces, who since 2021 have deployed in parts of eastern

Congo under a mission specifically to hunt down the militants accused of attacking a school.

Speaking to reporters near the scene of the attack, the commander of Ugandan troops in Congo told reporters that the rebels spent two nights in Kasese before carrying out their attack. He gave no further details.

ADF rebels, when under pressure, "divert" their pursuers' attention by splitting into small groups that then launch violent attacks in other places, said Maj. Gen. Dick Olum, suggesting that the latest attack was an attempt by the rebels to ease battlefield pressure.

Putin meets with African leaders to discuss peace plan

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday met with a group of leaders of African countries who traveled to Russia on a self-styled "peace mission" the day after they went to Ukraine, but the meeting ended with no visible progress.

The seven African leaders — the presidents of Comoros, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia, as well as Egypt's prime minister and top envoys from the Republic of Congo and Uganda — visited Ukraine on Friday to try to help end the nearly 16-month-old war.

The African leaders then traveled to St. Petersburg on Saturday to meet with Putin who was attending Russia's showpiece international economic forum.

Details about the delegation's proposals were thin.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said after the three-

hour meeting that the Africans' peace plan consisted of 10 elements, but "was not formulated on paper."

"The peace initiative proposed by African countries is very difficult to implement, difficult to compare positions," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. But "President Putin has shown interest in considering it."

"He spoke about our position. Not all provisions can be correlated with the main elements of our position, but this does not mean that we do not need to continue working," Peskov said.

"The main conclusion, in my opinion, from today's conversation is that our partners from the African Union have shown an understanding of the true causes of the crisis that was created by the West, and have shown an understanding that it is necessary to get out of this situ-

ation on the basis of addressing these underlying causes," Lavrov said.

Russia says that it was effectively forced to send troops into Ukraine because it was threatened by Ukraine's desire to join NATO and by the country's support from the United States and Western Europe.

Speaking at the economic forum on Friday, Putin declared that the first Russian tactical nuclear weapons have been deployed to Belarus, describing the move as a deterrent against Western efforts to defeat Russia in Ukraine. He previously said that the deployment would begin in July.

Asked if he could order the use of battlefield nuclear weapons in Ukraine, Putin said that there was no need for that but noted that Moscow could use its nuclear arsenal in case of a "threat to the Russian statehood."

Health & Wellness

How low testosterone can affect men's health

By ALEX OSIADACZ
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

Millions of men live with a testosterone deficiency. If left unchecked, this treatable condition may contribute to serious health problems like osteoporosis and lowered red blood cell production.

Dr. Gregory Broderick, a Mayo Clinic urologist, encourages men with symptoms of low testosterone to speak

with their health care team.

Testosterone is a key male hormone that is responsible for characteristics like hair growth, muscle mass and deepening of the voice. As men age, testosterone levels gradually decline, particularly over 40.

"The main complaint I see as a urologist is a lack of interest in sexual functioning," says Dr. Broderick. "But fatigue, changes in mental acuity, less stamina

and very often mild degrees of depression are associated with falling testosterone."

In some cases, infertility can be tied to low testosterone. But presenting these symptoms or traits is not an automatic diagnosis.

"Not all men need testosterone," says Dr. Broderick. "It's very important that this diagnosis is properly made based on symptoms but also the serum level of testosterone in the blood."

one in the blood."

When it comes to treating low testosterone, the most common way is a cream applied to the upper arm, but injectable or pill forms of testosterone are also available.

"Each of those avenues is designed to get you back to a normal level of testosterone," says Dr. Broderick. "What you should notice is that within 48 to 72 hours of your dosage that your desire has improved."



CONSUMER HEALTH

Men's health and living a longer, healthier life

By LAUREL KELLY
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

June is Men's Health Month, which makes this a good time to learn about the top threats to men's health and what you can do to keep yourself healthy.

Heart disease and cancer are two of the top three leading causes of death for men in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The good news is that healthy lifestyle choices can reduce your risk for both.

Heart disease

Heart disease encompasses a range of conditions that affect your heart, including blood vessel disease, such as coronary artery disease; heart rhythm problems, or arrhythmias; congenital heart defects; and heart valve disease.

You can reduce your risk of heart disease by:

- Not smoking, or quitting if you already do.
- Eating a diet that's low in salt and saturated fat.
- Exercising at least 30 minutes per day most days of the week.
- Maintaining a healthy weight.
- Reducing and managing stress.
- Controlling other health conditions, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes.
- Get good sleep—adults should aim for seven to nine hours daily.

Cancer

The three most common cancers for men in the U.S. are prostate, lung and colorectal, according to the National Cancer Institute. Treatment for certain cancers can affect your sexuality, causing a range of signs and symptoms that can make sex with your partner more difficult.

You can reduce your risk of prostate cancer by:

- Eating a healthy diet full of fruits and vegetables.
 - Exercising most days of the week.
 - Maintaining a healthy weight.
- You can reduce your risk of lung cancer by:
- Not smoking, or quitting if you already do.
 - Avoiding secondhand smoke.
 - Testing your home for radon.
 - Avoiding carcinogens

at work.

■ Eating a diet full of fruits and vegetables.

■ Exercising most days of the week.

You can reduce your risk of colorectal cancer by:

- Eating a variety of fruits, vegetables and whole grains.
- Drinking alcohol in moderation, if at all.
- Not smoking, or quitting if you already do.
- Exercising most days of the week.
- Maintaining a healthy weight.

Your next step

The pattern is clear, but it may seem overwhelming. You may not know where to begin, or how much difference a few small steps can make. Take control of your health by talking with your health care team about your lifestyle and health history. Then get serious about reducing your risk.

MAYO CLINIC MINUTE

Testicular cancer is highly treatable

By JASON HOWLAND
MAYO CLINIC NEWS NETWORK

June is Men's Health Month. It's an opportunity to recognize the signs and symptoms of testicular cancer.

The disease is not common. Just 1 in 250 men will develop testicular cancer at some point in their lifetime, according to the American Cancer Society. Most of those cases are in young and middle-aged men. And usually, the cancer is highly treatable.

Testicular cancer is a relatively rare disease that occurs predominantly in young men, with a second peak later in life.

"So think, sort of mid to late teens to early 30s," says Dr. Bradley Leibovich, a Mayo Clinic urologic oncologist.

It's most often diagnosed when a man feels a lump or swelling.

"We like men to do monthly testicular self-examinations. Because if you find that testicular cancer early, the amount

of treatment people need to get that cure is significantly less," says Dr. Leibovich.

Treatment is often only surgery to remove the cancerous testicle, with observation. But, in advanced cases, it can include chemotherapy, radiation or more complex additional surgeries.

"We want to really make sure men understand that the vast majority of people with testicular cancer will be cured and that we're going to cure them without compromising their quality of life in any way," says Dr. Leibovich.

The biggest hurdle to getting that cure is fear and not seeking medical help as soon as you notice something wrong.

"The fear of what's going to happen to me and the denial—and as long as we can really permeate to all men, that concept that the vast majority of testicular cancers are cured, I think it'll help us get people in earlier," says Dr. Leibovich.

Facts about fiber

ON NUTRITION

BY BARBARA INTERMILL
Tribune News Service



Barbara Intermill is a registered dietitian nutritionist and syndicated columnist. She is the author of *Quinn-Essential Nutrition: The Uncomplicated Science of Eating*. Email her at barbara@quinessentialnutrition.com.

Beta glucan, guar gum, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose. What would you do if saw these listed on a food ingredient label?

If you are of the mind not to buy any food with ingredients you cannot pronounce, you may be surprised that these ingredients are included in the U.S. Food and Drug Administration definition of dietary fiber.

What is dietary fiber exactly? That's not an easy question apparently. According to the International Food Information Council (IFIC), scientists around the world have not landed on a singular definition. They do agree on a few things, however.

Dietary fiber is only found in plant-based foods. In its various forms, it is a "non-digestible carbohydrate" meaning that it cannot be digested by the human body. Yet it is considered a nutrient that provides an ever-expanding array of health benefits.

Ever wonder why nutrition experts continue to drill us on the value of eating "whole" foods? Much of that has to do with the dietary fiber contained in intact plants such as vegetables, fruit, nuts, beans, whole grains and cereals. (Hint: Choose a wide variety of fiber-containing foods for best results.)

Research has shown, for instance, that a higher intake of dietary fiber can help lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels. It can help keep blood sugar (glucose) levels in check. And it may help lower the risk for certain types of cancer such as colon cancer.

Perhaps the most exciting role of fiber is how it affects our gut health. Besides keeping us "regular," certain types of dietary fiber (aka "prebiotics") feed the good bacteria in our intestines. These good bacteria help our bodies absorb important nutrients, fight off invading pathogens (bad bacteria) and may even play a role in keeping our weight in check.

How much dietary fiber do we need? According to the Institute of Medicine Food and Nutrition Board (now known as the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine), we need about 14 grams of fiber for every 1,000 calories we consume. That figures to about 25 grams a day for women between the ages of 19 to 50. Men in this age category require about 38 grams a day.

If you think that's easy, take a day and calculate how much dietary fiber you actually consume. An orange or banana contains about 3 grams, for example. A cup of cooked beans can have as much as 15 grams. You'll find dietary fiber in grams per serving listed on food labels. Or check out this chart included in the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans: www.dietaryguidelines.gov/resources/2020-2025-dietary-guidelines-online-materials/food-sources-select-nutrients/food-0.

Best way to get more dietary fiber? Choose more plant-based foods for meals and snacks. Duh. Be sure to increase your fiber gradually over time with plenty of fluids to avoid gut issues, says the IFIC. And don't make any severe changes in your diet without checking first with your medical provider.

Healthy Living

Gift from the sea

Limu moui, a seaweed from the Pacific island of Tonga frequently used in drinks with aloe vera and green tea, has many health benefits.

Immune system booster ... and more

- **Stabilizes** blood sugar levels
- **Reduces** cholesterol levels

Source: U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization



Life & Style

Prince Harry and Meghan Markle part ways with Spotify

The production company founded by Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, is splitting ways with Spotify less than a year after the debut of their podcast “Archetypes.”

It is unclear why the pod-

cast, hosted by Meghan, is leaving the platform but Spotify and Archewell Audio said in a joint statement that the decision was mutual.

Archewell landed a multiyear partnership with Spotify in 2020

to create podcasts and shows that would tell stories through diverse voices and perspectives.

The podcast premiered in August last year with tennis great Serena Williams as a guest and it was an instant hit.

It topped Spotify charts in seven countries, including the U.S. and the U.K., and it won the top podcast award at the People’s Choice awards last year.

“I loved digging my hands into the process, sitting up late at night in bed, working on the writing and creative. And I loved digging deep into meaningful conversation with my diverse and inspiring guests, laughing and learning with them, and with each of you lis-

tening,” Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, said at the time.

The show also had as guests Mariah Carey, Trevor Noah, Mindy Kaling and Paris Hilton.

Tech companies have been cutting costs in a rough economic environment and Spotify has not been immune. Six months after announcing that it would cut 6% of its global workforce, or about 600 jobs, Spotify said last week that it was trimming another 200 jobs.

The company said at the

time that it would be combining podcast networks Parcast and Gimlet into its Spotify Studios operation.

Prince Harry has been at the High Court of London this month. He is accusing the publisher of the Daily Mirror of using unlawful techniques on an “industrial scale” to score front-page scoops on his life. The Duke of Sussex became the first senior member of the royal family to testify in more than a century. (AP)

Hans Zimmer proposes to partner on London stage

LONDON (AP)—Hans Zimmer, the two-time Academy Award-winning composer, proposed to his partner on stage in London, prompting raucous applause from the audience.

As his performance at the O2 arena was drawing to a close Thursday evening, the 65-year-old German asked his partner to join him on stage—and then proceeded to declare his love.

Addressing her directly he



Zimmer

said: “Why did I bring you up here? I was going to ask you something really important. Did you lock the back door? Is the milk in

the fridge? Do we have any sorbet in the freezer?”

And then, he got to the point: “Will you marry me?”

The couple embraced and the audience erupted into applause after she appeared to accept.

A spokesperson for Zimmer confirmed that he had proposed to his partner, whose name and age were not provided.

Zimmer’s fans were treated to an array of music he has composed for hit films over the past few decades, including “Gladiator,” “The Dark Knight” and “Inception.”

Al Pacino, 83, is a father for the fourth time



Pacino

Al Pacino is a father for the fourth time.

Pacino’s publicist, Stan Rosenfield, confirmed to The Associated

Press on Thursday that the actor, 83, and 29-year-old Noor Alfallah welcomed a son named Roman.

No other details, including

when or where the baby was born, were released. The news was first reported by TMZ.

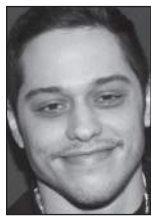
He is Pacino’s fourth child and first with Alfallah. Pacino has a 33-year-old daughter, Julie Marie, with acting coach Jan Tarrant and 22-year-old twins Anton and Olivia with actor Beverly D’Angelo.

Pacino and Alfallah reportedly began dating last year. She describes herself as a “raconteur” on her Instagram

page and her IMDB page notes that she’s a producer on two movies currently in post-production, including “Billy Knight,” starring Pacino.

Pacino’s baby news follows close on the heels of that of longtime friend and fellow actor Robert De Niro. A representative for the 79-year-old actor confirmed last month that De Niro had become a father for the seventh time. (AP)

Pete Davidson charged with reckless driving after car crash



Davidson

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles prosecutors charged former “Saturday Night Live” star Pete Davidson

with reckless driving Friday, three months after authorities

said he crashed into a Beverly Hills home.

The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office filed one misdemeanor count of reckless driving against the actor and writer but did not release details about the March 4 collision in Beverly Hills.

“We believe that Mr. Davidson engaged in reckless driv-

ing, which ultimately resulted in his involvement in a serious collision into a home,” the DA’s office wrote. “Luckily, no one was seriously injured as a result of this collision.”

Davidson’s arraignment is set for July 27. His representatives and Beverly Hills police did not immediately return requests for comment.

Fox News producer out after onscreen blurb calling President Biden a ‘wannabe dictator’

NEW YORK (AP)—A longtime producer for Tucker Carlson is out at Fox News after he was deemed responsible for the on-air headline that referred to President Joe Biden as a “wannabe dictator” because of the indictment of former President Donald Trump.

The producer, Alex McCaskill, confirmed his exit in an Instagram post. Fox News did not comment on Friday.

He had remained at Fox after Carlson, the network’s most popular personality, was fired on April 24. The reason for Carlson’s sudden ouster, less than a week after Fox agreed to pay Dominion Voting Systems \$787 million to end a defamation case, has never been publicly explained.

It was during the last minutes of Carlson’s former time slot on Tuesday when the message appeared under separate onscreen boxes that showed Biden and Trump talking. It read: “Wannabe dictator speaks at the White House after having his political rival arrested.”

Carlson, in a Twitter monologue posted Thursday, said “the women who run the network panicked” about the post and scolded the person responsible. Carlson didn’t name the producer, but said he was “considered one of the most capable persons in the building.”

The producer offered to resign with two weeks’ notice, but was told to clean out his desk and leave immediately, he said.

Fox, in a statement on Wednesday, said the chyron had been taken down and the issue “addressed,” without further explanation.

In an Instagram message posted on Twitter by Justin Baragona of The Daily Beast, McCaskill is pictured outside of Fox’s Manhattan office holding a box.

“Today was my last day at Fox,” read the message under his picture. “It’s been a wild 10 years and it was the best place I’ve ever worked because of the great people I met. But the

time has come. I asked them to let me go, and they finally did. To all my friends there: I will miss you forever.”

A call and text message to a phone listed as McCaskill’s was not immediately returned.

Plenty of Biden critics have suggested politics was behind Trump’s indictment by special prosecutor Jack Smith on charges of hoarding classified documents and resisting government attempts to retrieve them. Biden has not commented on the case.

McCaskill was named this spring in a lawsuit filed by a former Fox producer, Abby Grossberg, who also worked on Carlson’s staff. Her lawsuit said McCaskill “habitually belittled female employees” at Fox. He said that a room at Fox set aside for employees to pump breast milk was a “waste of space” and should be replaced with a room for men to tan their testicles, according to the lawsuit.

Fox has denied allegations in Grossberg’s lawsuit.

Readers provide ‘tall tales’ about dealing with height

DEAR ABBY: Regarding “Tall Person Sympathizer” (Feb. 28), whose very tall husband and son hate the comments they receive, I am 6 feet, 8 inches tall, so I can relate. One does feel like part of a freak show and have to deal with things most average height people don’t think twice about, like, “Can I fit in that car?” or “Where can I buy clothes that fit?” And that tired basketball question. Yep, even at my age of 64 I still hear it.

But the questions don’t bother me much anymore—except for “How’s the weather up there?” Now when someone asks the height question, I quickly respond with the obviously wrong answer of 5 feet 6. It always gets a laugh, and there usually is a little small talk after that, and I may even ask them their height. Then I tell them, I am 80 inches tall, which is true, and let them figure it out.

Seriously, though, most people look favorably upon you and wish they themselves were taller. I’ll add, from my memory of my youth, it sure didn’t hurt in attracting the ladies.

JAMES IN DELAWARE

DEAR JAMES: I received a “tall” stack of responses about that letter—almost all of them upbeat and fun. Several suggested the helpful retort when asked if they play (or played) basketball:

Short person: “Do you play basketball?”

Tall person: “No, do you play miniature golf?”

Most readers emphasized the positivity of accepting all of our unique differences. Read on for another gem:

DEAR ABBY: My granddaughter was 6 feet tall by the time she was a sophomore in high school. And yes, she received a lot of comments about it. She told me that when she was 15 she decided to embrace her height. And she did.

During her senior year, she auditioned for “Miss Local High School” and performed a monologue about what it was like to be a 6-foot-tall girl in high school. With jokes and good humor, she addressed the questions of playing basketball and volleyball and said she did neither. But she finished by saying that the best thing about being so tall was that she was able to help all the old, bent-over folks in the grocery store when they needed an item on the top shelf.

She didn’t win the contest, but she did bring laughter to the audience. Today, she’s a successful businesswoman with a boyfriend who is even taller. She has never considered her height a problem, so it isn’t.

CAROL IN FLORIDA

DEAR ABBY: I have a dilemma. A decadeslong friendship ended last year after an unfortunate, painful event. I have items he loaned me. What do I do with them, as we are no longer in contact? Should I ship them to his house? Donate them to charity? Neither

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

seems like a good idea. I’m not angry, but I can no longer let this person be any part of my life. What is the right thing to do?

AT A LOSS IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR AT A LOSS: The right thing to do would be to send the items to his house. They are not yours to donate; they are his property.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Schwarber has RBI single in 12th as Phillies beat Athletics



OAKLAND, Calif.
(AP)—Kyle

Schwarber hit a go-ahead single in the 12th inning and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Oakland Athletics 3-2 on Saturday for their fifth straight win.

Cristian Pache began the inning on second base and scored on Schwarber's first hit of the day, off Ken Waldichuk (1-5). Bryson Stott hit a tying single in the sixth and go-ahead sacrifice fly in the 11th inning, only for the A's to tie it in the bottom half.

Andrew Vazquez (2-0), Philadelphia's seventh pitcher, struck out the final two A's in the 10th then gave up Carlos Pérez's tying double in the 11th. He earned the victory as the Phillies won their sixth in seven and 12th of their last 14 following a five-game losing streak.

Jeff Hoffman earned his second career save and first since 2020 with Colorado, finishing the 3-hour, 27-minute game.

CUBS 3, ORIOLES 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Justin Steele pitched five innings of two-run ball in his return from the injured list, and Chicago got its fifth straight win.

Steele allowed five hits, struck out four and walked one in his first start since May 31. The left-hander had been sidelined by a strained forearm.

Chicago managed just four hits against Kyle Gibson (8-4) and two relievers. But Mike Tauchman delivered a tie-breaking sacrifice fly in the fifth, and the Cubs held on.

ROYALS 10, ANGLES 9

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Samad Taylor hit a walk-off single in his MLB debut and Kansas City snapped a 10-game losing streak.

Aroldis Chapman (2-2) earned the win in relief. Chris Devenski (3-1) took the loss.

Los Angeles wasted a great start by Griffin Canning, who allowed two runs on three hits in six innings. The Angels were up 8-2 in the seventh inning before the Royals came back.

Brandon Drury hit two home runs and drove in three runs and Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 23rd home run to build the lead for Los Angeles.

WHITE SOX 4, MARINERS 3, 11 INNINGS

SEATTLE (AP)—Zach Remillard's base hit in the ninth inning scored the tying run, his RBI single with two outs in the 11th gave Chicago the lead, and the White Sox rallied to beat Seattle.

Andrew Benintendi singled



AP
Philadelphia Phillies' Kyle Schwarber watches his RBI single against the Oakland Athletics during the 12th inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Calif., Saturday, June 17, 2023.

off Seattle reliever Tayler Saucedo (2-1) with two outs in the 11th to put runners at the corners, his sixth time on base in the game. Remillard followed with a line drive into right-center that scored Elvis Andrus.

Jesse Scholtens pitched the bottom of the 11th for his first major league save.

Eloy Jiménez homered for the second time in three games, hitting his eighth of the season for Chicago. Luis Robert Jr. had a two-out RBI single in the fifth to pull the White Sox even at 2.

PADRES, 2, RAYS 0

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Blake Snell struck out 12 over six dominant innings against his former team to lead San Diego past Tampa Bay.

Juan Soto hit a sacrifice fly in the fifth and Manny Machado drove in a run with an infield single off starter Zach Eflin (8-3) after the Padres opened the inning with three consecutive bunts.

Snell (3-6) also fanned 12 in his previous start, a no-decision against Colorado. The left-hander gave up just two hits to the major league-leading Rays. He walked three and worked out of jams with multiple runners on base in the fourth and fifth.

Steven Wilson and Nick Martinez each pitched a perfect inning before Josh Hader finished the three-hitter for his 17th save. Tampa Bay struck out 17 times.

CARDINALS 5, METS 3

NEW YORK (AP)—Adam Wainwright pitched into the seventh inning for his 198th win, Paul Goldschmidt hit a two-run homer and St. Louis snapped a six-game losing streak.

Jordan Walker also went deep for the Cardinals (28-43), who began the day with the worst record in the National League. Brendan Donovan

and pinch-hitter Dylan Carlson each had an RBI single as St. Louis won for only the fourth time in 17 games.

On a windy afternoon in Queens, Brandon Nimmo launched Wainwright's first pitch for his ninth career lead-off homer and second in five days. Luis Guillorme had a two-run shot for the fourth-place Mets, who have dropped 10 of 13.

The 41-year-old Wainwright (3-1) tossed a season-high 6 1/3 innings. He needs two wins to become the fifth active pitcher with 200. Wainwright gave up three runs and struck out three in his longest outing since last Aug. 28.

TWINS 2, TIGERS 0

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Minnesota's bullpen teamed up for a three-hitter, and Alex Kirilloff delivered an RBI single in a breakthrough fifth inning to lead the Twins.

José De León started with two perfect innings for the Twins, who opted for an all-reliever game to give their rotation a break during this stretch of 16 games without a day off. Brent Headrick (1-0) claimed his first major league victory with 2 1/3 innings. Jhoan Duran, the sixth pitcher to appear, earned his ninth save in 10 attempts with a crisp ninth aided by a double-play grounder by pinch-hitter Eric Haase.

RANGERS 4, BLUE JAYS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Josh Jung and Jonah Heim hit back-to-back homers, Adolis García had his MLB-leading 10th outfield assist among three defensive gems and Texas beat Toronto.

Corey Seager also homered, his 10th on a solo shot in the seventh, as the AL West-leading Rangers won for just the third time in 10 games.

Jung's two-run homer put the Rangers in front in the second inning after García

walked, and Heim made it 3-1 seven pitches later off Trevor Richards (0-1) in a bullpen game for Toronto.

García threw out Vladimir Guerrero Jr. at the plate to end the first after Guerrero's RBI single put the Blue Jays ahead.

MARLINS 5, NATIONALS 2

WASHINGTON (AP)—Braxton Garrett pitched six strong innings, Bryan De La Cruz had a two-run single and Miami won its third straight.

Joey Wendle had two hits for the Marlins. Luis Arraez, who went 5 for 5 with a homer on Friday night, was 1 for 4 with an intentional walk, leaving his major league-leading batting average at .388.

Jonathan Davis walked leading off the Miami seventh against Chad Kuhl (0-4), and Nick Fortes singled to put runners at the corners. With one out, Washington walked Arraez to load the bases and Kuhl then walked Jorge Soler to force in the go-ahead run. Fortes scored on a wild pitch to make it 3-1.

De La Cruz added a two-run single with the bases loaded in the ninth.

DIAMONDBACKS 6, GUARDIANS 3

PHOENIX (AP)—Jake McCarthy hit a go-ahead homer leading off the eighth, Corbin Carroll added a two-run shot three batters later and Arizona launched three long balls in the inning to beat Cleveland.

McCarthy drove a slider over the right-center wall for a 3-2 lead against starter Shane Bieber (5-4), who also gave up the no-doubter by Carroll. It was a frustrating end to the night for the Cleveland ace, who was excellent until his final few batters.

Christian Walker had a two-run homer to tie it in the fourth, and Lourdes Gurriel Jr. capped the eighth with a solo homer off reliever Nick Sandlin.

Miguel Castro (4-2) got the last out of the eighth for the win. Scott McGough got the last two outs, including a sacrifice fly by José Ramírez, to pick up his third save.

BREWERS 5, PIRATES 0

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Wade Miley pitched five scoreless innings in his return from the injured list and Joey Wiemer homered for the second straight game to lead Milwaukee.

The victory pushed the Brewers 1 1/2 games ahead of Pittsburgh atop the NL Central standings.

Miley (4-2) had been one of Milwaukee's most reliable starting pitchers before spending a month on the injured list due to a lat strain. The left-hander was 3-2 with a 3.67 ERA in eight starts before going on the IL on May 16. He returned to form Saturday, limiting the Pirates to two hits and two walks while striking out four.

REDS 10, ASTROS 3

HOUSTON (AP)—Jonathan India hit a two-run homer and Will Benson had three hits and two RBIs to power surging Cincinnati to its seventh straight win.

Hunter Greene (2-4) allowed five hits and two runs in six innings to get his second win of the season.

India's home run off Brandon Bielak (3-4) put the Reds up 2-0 in the first and Benson drove in two with a single in the fifth that pushed it to 5-1.

Cincinnati rookie Elly De La Cruz doubled with two hits and a stolen base after entering the game in an 0 for 13 skid.

BRAVES 10, ROCKIES 2

ATLANTA (AP)—Matt Olson hit a first-inning grand slam and homer-happy Atlanta won its fifth straight.

Ozzie Albies, Eddie Rosario

and Orlando Arcia also went deep as the National League-leading Braves moved a season-high 19 games over .500. They have combined for 42 runs and 52 hits during the winning streak and lead the majors with 122 homers.

After Olson made it 4-0, Michael Harris II's sacrifice fly and Albies' 16th homer put the Braves up 6-0 in the second. Rosario and Arcia went deep in the third to pad the lead at 9-0.

Bryce Elder (5-1) retired the first 11 batters he faced before Ryan McMahon hit a hard single past Albies at second in the fourth. He gave up Mike Moustakas' homer in the fifth and finished with four hits and one run allowed with no walks and four strikeouts in six innings.

Connor Seabold (1-3) was charged with a career-high nine runs and tied a career high with nine hits allowed. He lasted three innings and gave up four homers as his ERA rose 118 points to 5.88.

Arcia, who added an RBI single in the fifth, went 3 for 4 and is hitting .339.

GIANTS 15, DODGERS 0

LOS ANGELES (AP)—LaMonte Wade Jr. hit a three-run homer, J.D. Davis added a pinch-hit grand slam, and San Francisco won its season-high sixth straight.

It was the Giants' largest margin of victory over their NL West rival in 10 years. With the loss, the Dodgers dropped a home series to the Giants for the first time since losing three of four in July 2021.

Wade and Davis drove in five runs apiece, while Brandon Crawford had four of the Giants' 17 hits.

San Francisco did most of its damage in the fifth, sixth and seventh innings. Luis Matos drew a leadoff walk in the fifth, stole second and took third on Bobby Miller's errant pickoff throw. Matos scored on Crawford's RBI single, snapping Miller's streak of scoreless innings at 20 1/3. Miller (3-1) then hit Casey Schmitt and Wade followed with his fifth homer of the season for a 4-0 lead.

Crawford's RBI single extended the lead to 5-0 in the sixth. Davis blasted the first pitch from Alex Vesia 441 feet to center with two outs for a 9-0 lead. The Giants tacked on three more in the seventh, with Patrick Bailey's two-run double and Wade's RBI single off Nick Robertson. They added three more in the ninth.

Alex Wood (2-1) allowed three hits in five innings, struck out four and walked none. Tristan Beck earned a four-inning save.

Fowler, Clark share lead with major champs chasing them

LOS ANGELES
(AP) —

Rickie Fowler only had 3 1/2 feet left for par on what should have been his last shot Saturday in a U.S. Open round filled with far bigger moments. At stake was his first 54-hole lead in a major. Shockingly, he missed and slipped into a tie with Wyndham Clark.

Fowler wasn't the least bit bothered.

He knows what to expect by looking ahead at a final round on a Los Angeles Country Club course getting tougher by the minute, and by looking behind at some of the players chasing them—Rory McIlroy, Scottie Scheffler, Dustin Johnson.

"It would be nice for that one to go in," Fowler said. "Really doesn't matter—having the lead, being one back, two back—you're going to have to play good golf tomorrow. Bummer to have that one slip away, but tomorrow is a whole new day."

"That's kind of when the tournament really starts."

Fowler brought the buzz to the U.S. Open with a 70-foot birdie putt only to lose the lead with a three-putt bogey on the 18th hole, which turned into a two-shot lead and a tie for the lead when Clark boldly took on a tight pin he could barely see for a closing birdie.

Clark's birdie put him—and not McIlroy—in the final group. And he knew it.

"I wanted to be in the final group. Every shot matters out here," Clark said.

For all the drama over the final hour—big putts, Scheffler's eagle-birdie finish, Xander Schauffele going



AP
Rickie Fowler reacts after missing a putt on the 18th hole during the third round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at Los Angeles Country Club on Saturday, June 17, 2023, in Los Angeles.

from a crash to a recovery to another crash — McIlroy played a steady hand with one birdie and one bogey over his final 14 holes.

He had a 69 that left him one shot behind, poised to end nine long years without a major.

"It's nice to be in the hunt," McIlroy said.

Fowler had to settle for an even-par 70. Clark escaped big trouble from the barranca right of the 17th green with a 6-foot bogey putt to stay close, and then boldly took on a tight left pin at the 18th for a 6-foot birdie and a 69.

They were at 10-under 200.

The final hour brought a surprise at every turn. A long day of blazing sunshine baking the North course at Los Angeles Country Club gave

way to the infamous marine layer that brought out some sweatshirts late in the day.

Scheffler, the No. 1 player in the world, never looked to be in the mix until he closed out his round of 68 by holing a 7-iron from 196 yards on the 17th hole and making a 20-foot birdie putt that put him in the penultimate group with McIlroy.

For so many others, it didn't take much to lose ground.

Schauffele began his round by taking three shots to get out of a fairway bunker, making three bogeys in five holes, only to get it all back before losing ground at the end with a series of poor drives. He was at 73, five shots back.

Harris English kept pace with the leaders until he

missed short putts, big drives and ended his day with a chip shot from the deep collar around the 18th green that didn't move the ball. His fourth bogey of the back nine gave him a 71, leaving him four shots behind.

The final hour saved what had been a stale atmosphere among the glitz of LA, with just about everyone playing a part. The five players within five shots of the lead included three major champions who have been No. 1 in the world—McIlroy, Scheffler and Johnson (71).

This is the third time Fowler has been in the final group at a major. This is only the third time Clark has played in the final round of a major. He showed plenty of mettle, following consecu-

tive bogeys with a birdie on the 13th—right after Fowler wowed the gallery with his 70-footer—and smartly took a penalty drop on the 17th before a closing bogey.

There was a lot going on at the end.

"I felt like I handled all of it really well," Clark said. "I felt like I handled all the adversity, and I feel like my best round is still out there."

McIlroy had a chance to end his major drought last summer at St. Andrews when he shared the lead going into the final round at St. Andrews, only for Cameron Smith to blow past him. He has been in position twice in the last two weeks, at the Memorial and Canadian Open, only to turn in a dud of a final round.

The stakes are enormous this time, on this stage. And he has the experience, though he wasn't sure to make of that.

"It's been such a long time since I've done it," said McIlroy, whose last major was at the PGA Championship in 2014. "I'm going out there to try to execute a game plan, and I feel like over the last three days I've executed that game plan really, really well. And I just need to do that for one more day."

Scheffler is suddenly in the mix, all because of one remarkable shot and one big putt. He has been the model of consistency this year, even in the majors — a tie for 10th at the Masters, a runner-up finish in the PGA Championship.

"I'm standing there on 17 tee and just made another bogey, and I think I was probably 4 under for the tournament and I'm looking up at the board and I'm seven shots back and I'm thinking maybe I can steal one shot coming in," Scheffler said.

He stole three and now is well within range.

The marine layer blocking the sun had kept LACC's greens receptive and scoring ridiculous, at least by U.S. Open standards. The sunshine made it a stronger test, and perhaps offered a preview of what's to come.

The scores don't indicate this is the toughest test in golf. It's likely to feel like way for the players chasing the silver trophy—Fowler and Clark going for their first, McIlroy hopeful of a win that will take attention away from what has been keeping him from another.

By **TERESA M. WALKER**
AP SPORTS WRITER



The Memphis Grizzlies put their future and title hopes in the hands of Ja Morant.

With Morant suspended, so are the franchise's championship plans.

The NBA has sidelined Morant for the first 25 games of the upcoming season. The suspension Friday of Memphis' franchise player was not unexpected for an organization that has made headlines for players' off-court issues and on-court antics.

The association still is a league where the best players matter.

Jeff Van Gundy, the former NBA coach and current ESPN and ABC analyst, said there are lot of questions about how much the Grizzlies will matter without their best player.

"Are they healthy? Are they selfish? Are they driven?

With Ja Morant suspended, so are Grizzlies' plans for NBA title chase

And can they make enough right decisions to lead an organization?" said Van Gundy, who believes Memphis has strong leadership in general manager Zach Kleiman and an outstanding coaching staff led by Taylor Jenkins.

But Van Gundy added everything centers around their point guard and that "hopefully for Morant ... he makes the right choices."

He has shown he can on the court.

Morant has been the Grizzlies' biggest star; he was their first NBA Rookie of the Year in 2020 and the 2022 NBA's Most Improved Player of the Year. His No. 12 jersey ranked among the NBA's top 10 best sellers on the league website the second half of this season, and Nike gave Morant a signature shoe deal.

Off the court, there has been a

slew of questionable decisions.

Morant, 23, flashed a handgun not once, but twice between March 4 and May 13 all caught on social media video. The second came after an eight-game suspension in March that allowed Morant to be back for the playoffs.

Part of Morant's latest punishment is dealing with what Commissioner Adam Silver called "destructive behavior." The Grizzlies issued a terse statement, noting all team personnel are expected to follow NBA and Memphis standards.

With Morant leading the way, Memphis has had regular season success but mostly playoff disappointment for fans and the organization.

They were good enough to be the Western Conference's No. 2 seed the past two post-seasons with only playoff series win. They lost to the

seventh-seeded Los Angeles Lakers in the first round in April.

Now what the team will look like by the time next season comes around is unclear.

The Grizzlies have limited flexibility under the salary cap after doling out big contracts to Jaren Jackson Jr., this season's NBA Defensive Player of the Year, then Morant.

They do have the 25th pick overall in Thursday night's NBA draft, but Memphis already has decided not to bring back Dillon Brooks as a free agent after he led the league in technicals along with suspensions and fines. Brooks called LeBron James old as the Grizzlies lost in six games to the Lakers. Brooks was suspended for a game in the series and fined for not talking to the media.

Center Steven Adams never

returned after hurting his right knee hurt in late January. Key reserve Brandon Clarke tore his left Achilles tendon March 3—hours before Morant earned his first suspension for livestreaming himself flashing a gun at a Denver-area strip club.

But because Morant has never played more than 67 games in a regular season, the Grizzlies do have experience playing without him.

With Morant, the Grizzlies are 142-106 (.573) in the regular season since he arrived in Memphis. They are 37-24 (.607) without him in the lineup.

Ironically, Morant missed 25 games during the 2021-22 season due to injuries and Memphis went 20-5.

This past season, however, the Grizzlies was just 11-10 without Morant and

40-21 with him.

Van Gundy said Tyus Jones is a big reason Memphis has had success without Morant. With Jones under contract for the upcoming season, that's a bonus for the Grizzlies.

"He knows when Morant comes back he's the franchise player and so I don't think that'll be a problem," Van Gundy said of Jones' understanding he will be just be a part-time starter until the two-time All-Star's return.

But Jones, like everything about the Grizzlies at the moment, is just a temporary solution.

Their future hinges on Morant—the point guard with "otherworldly talent"—correcting his behavior and responsibly addressing issues away from basketball.

Van Gundy said supporters are hoping for a good outcome, "but the only one in charge of that is Morant."

By **MARK RABAGO**
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



For leading their teams to the Promised Land, Sidney Quan of New Chang Ming Market and J.R. Barrios of Blue Haus were named Finals MVP, respectively, of the open and masters division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League.

Quan scored 11 points and played excellent defense in their 82-77 win in the winner-take-all championship game against Maretech-Ol'Aces last Tuesday at the Koblerville Basketball Court.

The 29-year-old, 5'11" forward dedicated his Finals MVP award to God, his parents, and friends and teammates "who continue to help me improve my game."

As for his tough assignment in guarding Ol'Aces top scorers Douglas "Spyder" Schmidt and Preston Basa, Quan said both were equally difficult to guard and required different approaches.

"With Preston you need to be sure to not give him much space as he can pull up from anywhere beyond the 3-point line and when guarding Douglas it is important to maintain space to account for his speed and explosiveness."

Quan, who is the manager of All Star Sporting Goods and Boarderline, said he developed his love for basketball after moving back to Saipan from Hawaii for his senior year of high school.

Before winning the SCLC caging Finals MVP, he also was part of mythical fives in the past.

Barrios, for his part, won the Finals MVP after scoring a game-high 22 points in Blue Haus' 68-66 win against Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific also last Tuesday at the Koblerville

Quan, Barrios are Finals MVPs



Quan



Barrios

By **LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER



Cartfield Sablan defended his

Home Run Derby title as he hit the most home runs again, while Maribel Igitol took the title of Home Run queen in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Home Run Derby last June 11 at the DanDan Softball Field.

Sablan was tied with Ton Pangelinan with three home runs each in the first round. A tie-breaker second round was forced and the crown went to Sablan as Pangelinan couldn't hit any out of the park this time around. Sablan hit one to secure the title of

Sablan, Igitol are BASA Home Run Derby king and queen



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cartfield Sablan, third from left, won the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Home Run Derby last June 11 at the DanDan Softball Field.

Home Run King.

Third place went to Dominic Hideo as he won the second round with one home run. In the first round, Hideo,

Darwin Masaharu, and Audie Maratatita were tied with two each.

Igitol, in the first round of the women's division, hit



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maribel Igitol, third from left, is the women's division champion of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Home Run Derby held last June 11 at the DanDan Softball Field.

three home runs for the win. Heather Kladihm hit one for second place. Meanwhile, Kianu Aldan, Kiana Camacho, and Keyona Tudela didn't hit any so they had a second round for third place.

Aldan took third place after she hit three home runs. Camacho hit two, while

Tudela hit one.

In 2022's Home Run Derby, Sablan was the men's division champion, while Allana Sumang won the women's division.

Currently, the 2023 BASA league is on a break and will resume its championship round this Sunday, June 25.

MIYAZAKI

From Page 20

Kim tried to close the gap again, but momentum was clearly on Miyazaki's side as Miyazaki made it 18-15, then 20-16. Kim landed a good shot and prolonged the game by one more point, 20-17, but it ended as Miyazaki smashed the winning point just out of Kim's reach for a final score of 21-17.

Miyazaki took the first set in a close, 21-19 game, and tired out in the second set for a 14-21 loss. Miyazaki was clearly fatigued near the end of the second set and could not catch up to Kim's returns and well-placed smashes, but after some cheering up from her coach, Miyazaki—who was a fighter through and through—came back with a vengeance in the third set after falling behind early on.

Kim, who is unranked like in the first qualifier the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023, was a qualifier who was not in the main draw and made it to the finals after defeating ranked players.

Miyazaki, who was interviewed through an interpreter after her match, said that she is proud of winning their finals rematch. "It was a very long game, but we [played] last week, so we know how

to play [against] each other now. Finally, I got the win so I'm really proud."

Miyazaki, who has been playing badminton since she was 6 years old, has one more year in the junior division and is looking forward to qualifying for the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Results of the men's doubles, mixed doubles, women's doubles, and men's singles will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

MIZUTANI

From Page 20

the NMC Golf Open. He won a \$60,000 2023 Hyundai IO-NIQ 5 SEL.

"This is the second consecutive golf tournament where Triple J is giving away a new car. We're very

grateful as this is what it's all about. It's about the community. It's about the players and sponsoring. We don't want to sponsor an event and not give away a car. So we're very happy that this has happened. We want to congratulate the winners and hopefully we can get more players out for

next year's event."

While Typhoon Mawar postponed the golf tournament, Ficke said it worked out well for Mizutani because if he won a couple of weeks ago, his prize would've been a 2022 two-wheel drive Mitsubishi Outlander.

"But we sold that vehicle and now he's actually get-

ting a brand new 2023 all-wheel-drive unit. That's what we have available and it's a beautiful white with gray interior. It's a very nice car," he said.

Results of the 14th Annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament will be published in tomorrow's issue of *Saipan Tribune*.

MARIANAS

From Page 20

whole, she said "We've been practicing twice a week, so the competition was pretty intense. I've paddled over the years so I see more women coming out. It's really overwhelming for me to see that more and more working moms, professionals, and just business women from all walks of life are just coming in to compete here in the waters."

With this race series the first of their paddling season and preparation for the Pacific Games in November, Demapan said that their goal is to be able to compete internationally

with other countries. "Based on our [race] times and the hard work that and just the tools and knowledge that we've learned from other teams and our coaches and our leader, I think we're ready to compete internationally."

On what was the toughest part of the competition, she said that it was keeping up with the other teams. Their MOC team has a lot of young paddlers, but she said that "competition is a good thing for everybody, especially paddlers and for anybody competing in organized sports, so I think it was good."

Results of V1 men's and women's division will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

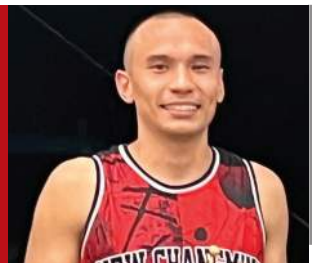


Schwarber has
RBI single in 12th
as Phillies beat
Athletics.
PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

Quan, Barrios are
Finals MVPs.

PAGE 19



20 MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2023

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mizutani aces hole No. 3; wins 2023 Mitsubishi Outlander

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Justin Mizutani is the owner of a brand new 2023 Mitsubishi Outlander ES after making a hole-in-one last Saturday in the 14th Annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

The 35-year-old Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services staff made the ace in hole No. 3 of the Kagman golf course's west course.

"I woke up early and I knew it's gonna be a great day



so I came out and supported the Saipan Chamber of Commerce golf tournament... Fortunately, I got lucky today and God is great and gave me all the luck and here we are standing here today with a brand new car," he said.

Mizutani used an 8 iron with a Callaway Chrome X from over 170 yards out to make the hole-in-one.

"My group had a bunch of good players. So right when I hit it, we knew that it was gonna be pretty close. But when it disappeared on the green, we knew it went in. Then the green's keepers—the ones measuring



BY MARK RABAGO

From left, hole-in-one winner Justin Mizutani, tournament director Franco Santos, and Triple J Motors Saipan general manager Sean Ficke pose in front of the 2023 Mitsubishi Outlander ES Mizutani won last Saturday in the 14th Annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

the closest to the pin—were shouting and raising their hands that it went in. But we kind of knew from the top because it disappeared," said Mizutani, who's been playing golf for 10 years now.

The 8-handicapper said his wife initially didn't want to believe that he won a new car when he called her. She had to call her father, who also was playing in the Chamber tournament, and that's when she confirmed the good news.

"So she didn't really believe it at first and now I guess she's happy. She's excited for the new car," said Mizutani.

Triple J Motors Saipan general manager Sean Ficke con-

gratulated Mizutani and his family for the spanking new 2023 Mitsubishi Outlander.

"Today, Justin was able to hit a hole-in-one for a brand new 2023 Mitsubishi Outlander ES all-wheel-drive unit. MSRP on this vehicle is about \$43,995. He was about 178 yards out and with the slope it actually was 176.4 yards which is about 530 feet. Actually it was a challenging shot as it was tucked behind a bunker. So it was a really great shot," he said.

Last March, Triple J Motors successfully gave away a brand new car when John Terlaje aced hole No. 17 in

See MIZUTANI on Page 19

Miyazaki fires through women's singles finals

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Japan's 16-year-old Tomoka Miyazaki came from behind in fiery and spectacular fashion during an epic finals rematch of the women's singles against South Korea's Ga Ram Kim.

It was the last women's singles showdown of the 2024 Paris Olympics badminton qualifier—the TakeCare Saipan International 2023—in front of a buzzing and ec-

static crowd at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium yesterday afternoon.

Miyazaki, who is currently the 2022 BWF World Junior Champion, was down 5-12 in

the deciding tie-breaking set.

Through pure grit and talent however, Miyazaki, was able to stop Kim and shoot through the next points—tied the game at 13-13, then took the lead, 14-13, in what seemed to be an improbable comeback due to Miyazaki's clear exhaustion on the court.

Kim wasn't out for the count just yet though and proceeded to keep the game close and tied it up at 14-14, then took the lead 15-14. Miyazaki, though, gained the upper hand

when she landed deceptive shots just right down the line that fooled Kim a few times to regain the lead, 16-15.

The game and lead teetered between Miyazaki and Kim and held the audience captive and at the edge of their seats—causing cheers to erupt with each point scored. Miyazaki, with her frail stature yet speedy footwork and flexibility, was able to return and defend a few shots from Kim that seemed impossible to do so.

See MIYAZAKI on Page 19

Marianas Outrigger Club sweep slalom V6



LEIGH GASES

The men of Marianas Outrigger Club pose with their gold medals after winning the V6 men's division of the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation Va'a Slalom Race V6/V1 series at the Kilili Beach in Susupe last Saturday.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

CNMI paddlers took to the Kilili Beach in Susupe on a sun-splashed Saturday for the finale of the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation Va'a Slalom Race V6/V1 series.

In the women's and men's

division of the Slalom V6, Marianas Outrigger Club out paddled the other paddling clubs for the top spots from the total points of their three races from last May 20 and June 3.

MOC Black garnered the most points and were the only team above 100 points with 120; second was Saipan Paddling Club Women with

75 points; MOC Orange claimed third with 63 points; Marianas Paddling Club took fourth place with 40 points; and fifth was MPP Blue with 35 points.

MOC 1 men took a close first place with 110 points; while SPC A settled for second place with 100 points; third was SPC B with 58 points;



LEIGH GASES

The women of the Marianas Outrigger Club pose with their gold medals after winning the V6 women's division of the Northern Marianas National Paddling Sports Federation Va'a Slalom Race V6/V1 series at the Kilili Beach in Susupe last Saturday.

